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Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN

REV. FREDERICK BROWN HARRIS, D. D., LL. D., LITT. D.

AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY SESSIONS

OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DURING THE EIGHTY-FIRST, EIGHTY-SECOND, AND

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESSES, 1949–1954

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1949–1954

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1955

Senate Resolution No. 294

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

(Submitted by Mr. JENNER)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
August 11 (legislative day August 5), 1954.

Resolved, That three thousand copies of the prayers offered by the Reverend Frederick Brown Harris, doctor of divinity, Chaplain of the Senate, at the opening of the daily sessions of the Senate during the Eighty-first, Eighty-second, and Eighty-third Congresses, inclusive, be printed and bound for the use of the Senate.

Attest: J. MARK TRICE, *Secretary.*

II

Theology Library
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"ARROWS OF DESIRE"

VOLUME II

Prayers

IN WAR AND PEACE

OFFERED AT THE SESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

BY THE CHAPLAIN

THE REVEREND FREDERICK BROWN HARRIS, D. D., LL. D., LITT. D.

"Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!"

GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

TO

The Great Congregation of

Foundry Church, Washington, D. C.

FOUNDED THE SAME YEAR AS "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" WAS WRITTEN, WHOSE MINISTER IT HAS BEEN MY HIGH PRIVILEGE TO BE FOR THREE DECADES, AN HISTORIC CHURCH WHOSE CONSTANT COOPERATION AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING IN THE HOLY TASK AT THE NATION'S CAPITOL COMMITTED TO THEIR PASTOR'S HANDS, AND WHOSE VIVID AWARENESS OF THE SUPREMACY OF SPIRITUAL VERITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE REPUBLIC HAVE BEEN INSPIRING FACTORS IN HIS NATIONAL MINISTRY AS CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Frederick Brown Harris

Foreword

for the Book of Prayers by

THE REVEREND FREDERICK BROWN HARRIS

Chaplain of the Senate

One of the associations which I prize most highly, and one which has been the source of much inspiration, has been my relationship with the Chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend Frederick Brown Harris.

In the usual order of business of the United States Senate, the invocation is often the best speech of the day. As a matter of fact, in the prayers of the Chaplain, rather than in the hectic day-to-day clashes of debate, we can see the greatness of America, because in the invocations the faith is expressed which brings us all together, whereas the debates often tear us apart.

Not as a Republican, nor as a Democrat, but as the Presiding Officer of the Senate, I think I can speak for that body when I say the thoughts expressed in the invocations constantly remind us that the greatness of America comes from the fact that this Nation was built on the foundation of faith in God. If we never forget this, we will always be sure that the things that divide us will never be so important in the long run as the things that bind us together.

It is my privilege, both personally and as a representative of the Senate, to express deep appreciation to Dr. Harris, one of Washington's greatest Churchmen, and my sincere friend, for the inspiring messages that he brings in the invocations as each session is opened.

Richard Nixon

The Vice President.

MARCH 7, 1955.

Senate Resolution No. 54

EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

(Submitted by Mr. LUCAS)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
February 3, 1949.

Resolved, That Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D. D., of Washington, D. C., be, and he is hereby, elected Chaplain of the Senate.

Attest: LESLIE L. BIFFLE, *Secretary.*

Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY SESSIONS OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE EIGHTY-FIRST, EIGHTY-SECOND, AND EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS, INCLUSIVE (1949–1954)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1949

GOD OF THE LIVING AND THE LIVING DEAD: In the midst of life we are in death; yet when the throb of eternity is felt within us we know that life is not measured by heartbeats nor by figures on a dial. We give Thee thanks for the witness of Thy servant* who ministered in holy things to this Chamber, now gone so suddenly from our side and sight to a larger sphere but still in the radiant presence of the Master of all good workmen. Knowing that we will not pass this way again and that the sands of our brief years are so swiftly falling, may we so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom, putting into the fugitive fragments of every day such quality of work as shall make us unashamed when our little day is over and all the days are done. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1949

ALMIGHTY GOD, hallowed be Thy name. In our wayward hearts Thou hast implanted a love for truth and beauty and goodness. May Thy truth make us free—free from pride and prejudice, and from all the ugly sins of disposition that do so easily beset us. May the lure of Thy beauty lift us above the mud and scum of mere things to the realm of the excellent and the lovely. In a deceitful world which offers its cheap and empty prizes, where each ounce of dross counts its ounce of gold, enrich us with those durable satisfactions of life, so that the multiplying years may not find us bank-

*The late Chaplain, Peter Marshall.

rupt in the things that matter most, the golden currency of faith and hope and love. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, all the ways of our direst needs lead to Thee and to Thy everlasting mercy. For this quiet moment before the pressing concerns of a new day move in upon us, wilt Thou lift us from the confusion and bafflement of these desperate times into the unhurried, healing calm of Thy presence. Solemnize us with the responsibility of ability, as we face decisions affecting the lives and fortunes of untold millions who look eagerly to these halls of council for the wise word and the right action. Grant us so to know Thee that we may truly love Thee, and so to love Thee that we may freely serve Thee, to the honor and glory of Thy great Name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, midst all the traffic of our busy ways we are grateful for this noontide sanctuary of the spirit. Be to us a quickening presence, a sustaining power, a refuge from the confusion and tumult of our times. Direct us now to the sources of moral energy, so that Thy completeness may be linked to the limitations of our unaided strength.

We pray for the President and for the Congress, and for all in every land who bear the responsibility of public office.

As we enter upon the tasks of this week make us patient in argument, charitable in judgment, slow to wrath. As Thou givest us to see the right, make us strong to defend and maintain it, yet always seekers after a durable peace with justice and freedom for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, facing decisions which make our wisdom or our folly affect the lives of untold millions, our need of the Divine leading is very deep. As we come to this quiet cloister of the eternal may we be strengthened for waiting tasks by the far look. Enable us to

bear with fortitude the fret of care, the sting of criticism, the drudgery of unapplauded toil; to think clearly, to act kindly, to play manfully our part in the life of our times, to strike our blow for freedom and, keeping to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, to leave the world better for our sojourn in it. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, from the folly, treachery, and frustration, the mental and moral and spiritual confusion of these frightening days, we turn for this still moment to the timeless verities of the unseen and eternal and to the well of faith from which our spiritual strength is drawn.

We thank Thee for the world around us, the work of Thy fingers, the object of Thy love. We thank Thee for the world within us, for the call of duty, for the lure of the lovely, for the sorrow that we fall so far short of the glory; for eternity set deep in our hearts so that we are restless among the things we see and handle and dissatisfied with all save Thyself. In all that we say or do this day keep our hearts with Thee, and lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1949

OUR FATHERS' GOD AND OURS, we lift to Thee our grateful hearts for the national heritage that has come down to us, bought by other toils and other tears than our own. Help us this day with vivid vision to see them of old who feared Thy name and handed on to us the torch of the Nation's righteousness.

Especially do we give Thee thanks for the selfless service and the stainless record of that calm and courageous leader whose spirit and whose sword were Thy instruments in laying the foundation of our state. As we cherish his deeds and recall his farewell warning words, O God of Hosts, lest we forget, repeat in us the faith which shone on his illumined countenance lifted in an agony of prayer from crimsoned ground where patriots bled.

In these desperate days, drive us to our knees for the inner strength that steadied him whose name we reverence on his natal day. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1949

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN and in the earth, and in the hearts of men: Hallowed by Thy Name.

To our dear land of the free in Thy providence has been given a place of awesome responsibility in this supreme hour of destiny. We would exercise that stewardship of power with anxious care and deep humility. May those who serve the public weal be wise interpreters of Thy eternal law, the brave spokesmen of Thy will and of the truth which sets men free from ancient wrongs.

Make our America a nation Thou canst trust and bless. May our democracy purged of its failings and confessing its failures be an inspiring, emancipating power for world security and stability, and a flaming light of liberty for all the earth. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1949

GOD OUR FATHER, whose will is our peace and in the white light of whose presence our consciences are made sensitive and our pride humbled: We come unfilled to Thee. We come in deep need, for the responsibilities of public office are heavy. Our concern for our own dear land and for those who love liberty and yearn for it around the world haunts our minds day and night. The circumstances of our times are dismaying and the resources of our souls inadequate unless Thou replenish them. Give us intelligent perspective, the courage to follow the gleam of human brotherhood, a vision of Thy kingdom on earth and faith to push out its frontiers of good will.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, Thou knowest our frame and rememberest that we are dust. Thy patience outlasts all the dullness of our apprehension and the dimness of our vision.

Today we come for light enough to walk by. Save us from the futile repetition of old errors and the restoration of old evils. Let not ignorance nor mean partisanship nor selfish greed nor the temptations of privilege block the way to a new order in the world with

hope of lasting peace, enlarging brotherhood and increasing opportunities for all Thy children. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast taught us that our very bodies are to be the shrines of Thy spirit. We do not seem to ourselves temples of the holy but, rather, very secular houses not fit for Thy dwelling; yet Thou seest a temple in each of us, an altar there, even though forgotten, and needs and aspirations, yearnings and capacities, if we could be but strengthened by Thy might to be our best selves. For our own sakes and for the sake of this needy world Thou hast summoned us to serve in a desperate day, God of all grace, cleanse us, make us right within, that our humble shrines may be alight with the divine. Ere our day is done use us as Thy instruments, so that the paganism that blights the world shall be redeemed into the decency and justice and mercy and brotherhood of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1949

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the source from which we come, the goal to which we travel, the light and strength of these, our pilgrim days: We turn for this quiet moment from converse with our fellows to commune with Thee. Grant us for our hallowing thoughts that pass into prayer, prayers that pass into love, love that passes into life. In Thee is the secret of every virtue we possess and every victory won, and every thought of holiness. Enter into our lives this day and make them Thine. Redeem them from fear and frustration. Equip and empower them by Thy heavenly grace, that they may be adequate for all the varied duties and responsibilities that confront these Thy servants entrusted with the authority of government. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1949

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, to whose kingdom of justice and love the future belongs: It is Thy might which hath made and preserved us a Nation. In the dedication of this quiet moment, perplexed by

rushing cares, we would still all other voices that Thine may be heard.

We long to see the genuine spirit of brotherhood regnant in our common life—cleansing it from all that is unwholesome, sweetening every human relationship, composing the differences of class with class and nation with nation, delivering from the lust for gain or power or privilege which would narrow our loyalties and harden our sympathies. To this end we pray that Thou wouldst hear us for the outward growth of Thy kingdom in the world, and for its inward growth in our own hearts and consciences. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1949

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast cast our lot in pleasant places: We praise Thee for our goodly heritage in this land. We remember with gratitude those whose gifts of head and heart and hand established the foundations of this Nation. We bless Thee for the ideals of faith and freedom which they cherished. Help us to hold them dear and to prize them above luxury or ease.

Deliver us from pride and self-sufficiency. So change our hearts and renew our wills that we shall love what Thou dost love and do what Thou dost command, and with singleness of mind and purpose seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness. Grant to these leaders of the Nation purity of motive and soundness of judgment. Raise up in every land men of vision and courage who for the sake of the common good will think wisely and do justly and love mercy. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, we turn to Thee from the perplexities and uncertainties which daily beset us. We are bewildered by the confusion of the world. Often we lose the way of certitude and self-control.

Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from the inclinations of our own hearts to self-deceit. Drive from them all equivocation and pretense. Make us true servants of Thy will in this troubled time. We ask it in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1949

O GOD OUR FATHER, before turning to face the pressing duties of another week, humbly we bow at this our shrine of the Spirit. Help us to be still and know that Thou art God. Forgive us that we talk so much and are silent so seldom, that we are in such constant motion and are so rarely still, that we depend so implicitly on the effectiveness of our manipulations and so little on the power of Thy Spirit.

Take, we pray Thee, all pride, greed, and injustice from this dear land of liberty whose representatives we are set aside to be. Grant to us the spirit of unselfish service which alone can make individuals and nations great. Teach us so to wait upon Thee for power and guidance that we may renew our strength, mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. We ask it in the ever Blessed Name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1949

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art the center and soul of every sphere, yet near to those of humble and contrite heart. Without Thee our lives are purposeless and meaningless. Without Thee all our paths lead but to the barren sands of futility, vanity, and vexation of spirit.

God of our fathers, we pause this dedicated moment to acknowledge that deeper than all else we are Thy children and supreme over every allegiance is our rightful loyalty to Thee. Behold us here, in this historic Chamber, seeking in a common prayer light upon our ways and strength within our hearts.

In these days of great peril, critical decisions, and inspiring challenge, as true servants of Thy will in this troubled time, we would dedicate ourselves anew to the building of a decent, humane, law-abiding world, to which Thy reign shall come and Thy will be done: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, lifting up our souls to Thee we seek the inward tranquillity that is both a sanctuary and a fortress. As we look into our own wayward hearts, save us from asking forgiveness without

shame and accepting it without wonder. Increase in us the moral passion which shares Thy righteous indignation with all that makes or loves a lie. Be to us the companioning presence of our daily lives, the kindly light of our pilgrim way—speaking through us in our words and attitudes, sustaining, guiding, correcting, empowering, until our day's work is done and sunset comes to find us undishonored, undefeated, and unashamed. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1949

O GOD, before whom the long travail of the passing centuries is wrought out, and who hast ushered us into this strange world where no good thing comes to its coronation save as we fulfill the conditions of its coming, strengthen us for the high enterprise of building here a more decent habitation for Thy family. Across the waste places use our frail and faltering hands to help throw up a highway for our God. May our free land throned in richness between the seas, coming to the kingdom for such a time as this, dedicate her privilege and her might as the servants of the spiritual life of this people and as the foe of tyranny and the bulwark of liberty in all the earth. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, we bring to Thee the moral chaos of our world, with its spiritual fatigue, its restlessness of heart, its dark forebodings. We acknowledge our share in the world's catastrophe, our love of ease, our pride of race and place and possessions, our failure to take account of the suffering and need of others. Before we turn this day to perplexing affairs of state we would bring our own hearts to the white light of Thy scrutiny. We would open to Thee the secret places of our lives.

Cleanse us, cast out the defilements we have cherished in spirits that should be the channels of Thy will. And so confront us with our shortcomings, our sins, and also with our possibilities, that by Thy grace we may be transformed by the renewing of our minds and go forth to live more nearly as we pray. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1949

O THOU ALMIGHTY FATHER OF ALL MEN, we bow for this quiet moment of communion with Thee at this wayside shrine of the eternal which the faith of our fathers builded. Amid the clamor of a dismaying world grant us grace to go forward to the cares and concerns of a new week in the unruffled confidence that Thou who hast the wisdom and the power hast also the will to supply our every need. Grant to our privileged land, where there are no fetters on human bodies or minds, the insight and good will that shall redeem by constructive service the desolations which have blighted the earth through man's inhumanity to man. Make us dauntless pioneers of a better world for ourselves and for all peoples, organized for peaceful progress and not for mutual slaughter, a world emancipated by Thy truth which makes men free. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1949

GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we thank Thee for the radiance of Thy truth which no denial can ever put out. Across our shadowed earth send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us; let them bring us to Thy holy hill.

Bewildered by the world's confusion, we are tempted to lose certitude and stability and self-control. Too often our own distraught spirits but mirror the angry emotions of a violent time. Of ourselves insufficient for these terrific days send us forth strengthened with Thy might to front tasks that tax our utmost with the glad assurance "He restoreth my soul."

In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1949

SPIRIT OF GOD, in Thee alone are the deepest cravings of our nature satisfied. With all our defilements we turn to Thee. Flow through us like clean waters and carry from our lives the anxious cares and resentments, the irritations and fears that hinder Thy fullness from dwelling in us. Rise in us, we beseech Thee, like a living well. Empower us with the hidden springs of deep resources not our own, but Thine. Open our eyes to the evils among us that we condemn

in others. Make plain our failures to practice genuine democracy. Fashion for Thine own purposes the policies of this Nation whose leadership in these desperate days can make or break the hopes of a better world. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, grant us, we beseech Thee, the lowly heart purged of pride and self-seeking, which is the only temple that can contain the Infinite. Enrich our lives with the grace of gratitude, for we come to the day's beginning with the song in our hearts: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

We bless Thee for all Thy bounties, new every morning; for the glories of the world in which we live, for the work Thou hast given us to do and the strength with which to do it, the lessons Thou hast set us to learn in Thy great school of discipline. Amid all the masquerades of error and the sophistries of the cynical which seek to deceive our day, lead us in the way of truth. May we hold the faith by which we live in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in the righteousness of life. We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1949

GOD OUR FATHER, with contrite spirits we come asking that Thou wilt strengthen our weakness, steady and calm our disturbed hearts, quiet our ill tempers, curb our hasty speech, give us faith for cynicism, and make us worthy of these demanding days that call for wisdom and character. May our own attitudes contribute to the warmth of that climate of friendship which shall yet cover every landscape with its magic charm and at last spread its divine tints across all the areas of human life. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1949

GOD OF THE NATIONS, with the hush of reverence upon our spirits, we bow before Thee with the deep gratitude of our hearts that through days of preparation Thou hast brought us by Thy good grace to this day of destiny where again the Liberty Bell which once rang for 13 States is heard this April day by as many imperiled nations around the threatened earth. In this momentous hour when,

with a new realization that in union there is strength, the forces of freedom are mobilizing against the fetters and chains of coercion, grant unto all who guide our destiny and shape our public policy, and to the whole body of the Commonwealth, that, having professed with our lips devotion to the cause of liberty and democracy and the welfare of all peoples, we may not fail our own best selves, or our fellow men, or Thee, as we go forward pledged to a better world, fearing Thee and nothing else. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, we would turn from this tragic, troubled world without to the inner kingdom of our hearts, knowing that there are the issues of life and that as a man thinketh in his own heart so is he. So relentlessly are we driven by the pressure of demanding days that our very souls become jaded and drained. We come with feverish spirits and anxious cares to the healing balm of Thy presence seeking the perfect peace of those who stay their minds on Thee.

May Thy renewing grace restore our depleted life as this noontide we turn our faces to Thy shining, O Thou sun of our help and strength. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1949

O THOU GOD OF LIFE AND LIGHT, help us with contrite hearts to begin this week, of all the year the holiest. May its sorrows search our souls. May we rise to newness of life as our glad hearts thrill again at the awakening earth robed in the blooming garb of spring. Make us more worthy of the high trusteeship of power and of opportunity which Thou hast committed to our hands in these decisive days. In this quiet moment of devotion, with all other voices stilled, breathe on us, Breath of God. Amid the turbulent things that are seen may the peace of the unseen and the eternal keep steady and steadfast our hearts and minds.

In the Redeemer's name, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1949

ETERNAL FATHER, in the holy pilgrimage of this sacred week we fain would join the devout multitudes under every sky treading

the way of sorrow. Give us eyes to see that a mocking robe may be more regal than cloth of gold, that a crown of thorns may glow with a splendor surpassing kingly coronets, and that a garden of suffering may hold more beauty and fragrance than a sheltered bower of delight. On the stepping stones of our dead selves may we mount to newness of life—to the singing Easter of the soul—as we pray, each at the inner shrine of his own heart:

"Nearer, my God, to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me."

In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1949

GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD: From the beauty of altar lilies in the afterglow of Easter, we come girding ourselves with its deathless message, as we take up our tasks again, feeling through all this earthly dress bright shoots of everlastingness. In our own risen lives, seeking those things which are above, enable us to challenge with the conquering truth of Easter all tyrants who, denying it, exploit and degrade the holy temple of human personality.

May we face whatever the future holds, calm and confident in the assurance that—

"There lives the beauty that man cannot kill,
Yea, that shall kill all ugliness at last;
And Christ in love's white vesture moveth still among us;
May we hold that faith, and hold it fast."

Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1949

GOD OUR FATHER, in all the turmoil of this violent world we are grateful for the daily quiet moment beside this wayside well of peace and prayer. As our thoughts are hushed to silence, may we find Thee moving upon our minds, higher than our fallible understanding yet nearer to us than our very selves. Bend our pride to Thy control, bringing all our desires and powers into conformity with Thy will. Prepare us for the role committed to our hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues that concern not only the preservation of our own dearly bought liberties but also keeping

the beacons of freedom aflame on all the continents and the isles which wait for Thy law. In the name of that One who is the way and the truth and the life. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, as we come in the golden glory of the risen earth we would that the blossoms of the divine grace of meekness, gentleness, charity, and forgiveness might make the barren wastes of our own lives to bloom as the garden of the Lord. In a blasted earth where evil still stalks in hideous forms, we thank Thee for the lovely things that are as indestructible as sunbeams, the tender ministries of human love, the lilting laughter and clinging trust of little children, and the holy ties of devoted homes. Beset by perplexing problems may we keep our hearts pure, our spirits courageous, as with hopeful faces toward the goal of human brotherhood we never turn our backs but march breast forward. In the Name that is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world filled with the clamor of those whose trust is in violence and with the boasting of those who reckon not with the ultimate supremacy of forces unseen and eternal, we come seeking fortitude and stability, knowing that still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, an humble and a contrite heart. In these days of crisis for our Nation and for the world, direct our steps, guard us from error, save us from false judgments, deliver us from all evil; make us faithful ministers of this stricken generation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1949

GOD OUR FATHER, bowing reverently in this hushed moment before Thee, from whom no secrets are hid, we would discard every mask and disguise of pretense which, alas, too often we wear before the face of man.

Deliver us, we pray Thee, from political policies which are symptoms of spiritual disease. Upon all who here labor with true purpose

of heart for the purification of public life, for the removal of all that betrays and denies democracy, for the spread of the gospel of good will, let Thy benediction rest. Bring us to a golden tomorrow or all Thy children, when the shared plenty of the good earth shall wash the slums of the world into vague, unhappy memories.

Hear our prayer as we tread softly the altar stairs of our common humanity. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4,1949

ETERNAL GOD, at this high altar of the Nation's service maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required. Give us honesty in dealing with our besetting sins, humility in confessing them, and resolution in overcoming them. Even as the din of words assails our ears from a turbulent world, grant us an inner calm undisturbed by any outer commotion. Endue us with Thy enabling grace that we may never betray for expediency's sake the high solemnities of duty which are the very breath of our integrity. Give us courage to seek the truth honestly and then to follow humbly the kindly Light that leads us on. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, unto our keeping Thou hast committed a national heritage luminous with freedom's glorious light. For all the glory which is America, we bless Thy name: For borders without guns, for frontiers which are swinging gates, for unity in diversity, for peace which spans a continent, and for the equality which beckons all to the summits. In this day of destiny for us and for the world, may we be worthy of our high calling as keepers of the sacred flame. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1949

GOD OF ALL GRACE, Thou hast taught us that even in the midst of a clamorous world in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength.

As we rejoice in the lifting of an unrighteous blockade, whose cruel and callous purposes have been thwarted by the valor, daring, and skill of freedom's dauntless eagles of the air, save us from blockading the city of our own souls against faith and hope and love and the

spiritual commerce which alone can feed and warm our hearts and minds. Restore in us, we pray Thee, the traffic of Thy enabling grace, so that spirit with spirit may meet and the deepest cravings of our nature be satisfied. We ask it through Him who is the Prince of Peace and in whose spirit and name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee for this shrine of the Nation's faith where, facing vast human issues committed to their hands, relying on a strength and a wisdom not their own, those here called to high public office come humbly to confess "In God we trust." We pray, and would work as we pray, for good government and just laws, for sound education and a clean press, for sincerity and honesty in our relations with one another and with all the peoples of the world; and, above all, for a spirit of service which will abolish pride of place and make possible equal opportunities to all in a human brotherhood without frontiers. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1949

GOD OF ALL MERCY, bowing at this noontide altar may we be vividly conscious that we need not turn back to bygone centuries to hear Thy voice, as if Thou dost speak no longer in these present days. Give us ears to hear Thy imperial imperatives above the noise of crashing systems, yea, in and through the change and confusion of our troubled day when Thou art searching out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat. So, hearing and heeding the voice divine, may our compassion help to heal the open sores of the world as here we serve the present age our calling to fulfill. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1949

O THOU WHOSE THRONE IS TRUTH, frail creatures of dust serving out our brief day on the world's confusing stage, we would set our little lives in the midst of Thy eternity and feel Thy greatness and Thy peace. So guide by Thy wisdom the deliberations of this body, entrusted with such power that awes and solemnizes our hearts, that in this forum of freedom there may be heard by a listening world the solemn summons to men of good will, of all races and of

all nations, to a new commonwealth of global brotherhood in which power shall be administered as a sacred trust dedicated to the common good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1949

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, in hours of perplexity and confusion we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee. With swift and unpredictable events tumbling upon us without warning in a violent and chaotic world, O Thou God of the changing years, in a still moment like this, as we bow at our altar of daily renewal, may a holy hush within our spirits whisper words of courage and fortitude and fidelity. In these days of decision and destiny may we not miss the things belonging to our peace and to the peace of the world. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1949

ETERNAL FATHER, fountain of our being, light of all our seeing: For the beauty of the earth, robed in the blooming garb of spring and for the tint of the tiniest flower, we raise our hymn of morning praise. As in all the bewilderment of the world's fiery strife our burdened hearts seek the quiet sanctuary of Thy healing presence, wilt Thou refresh our souls and restore our faith.

As this day with warm friendship we welcome the head of a great nation of the southern continent, may this neighborly handclasp between two democracies of our hemisphere be a symbol of closer cooperation and deeper understanding. Together, as colleagues, believing in the dignity of the individual, may we plan wisely and well for the common welfare of our peoples and for the peace of the whole world. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1949

DEAR GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, with silenced hearts listening for Thy voice, we wait for Thy word. In Thee only do we find light for life's meanings, wisdom for life's questions, strength for its duties, and courage for its unknown ways.

We thank Thee for this new day, a clean white page in the Book of Destiny if we but take it from Thy hand as trustees of Thy un-

folding purpose. Strengthen our hearts to follow the gleam of the highest and best we know, 'til the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in Thy great mercy, grant us a safe lodging and holy rest, and peace at the last. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quited, as we fare forth in Thy fear prosper us this day in our work. Even when our fellow men think they have cause for blame, may we care most for the approval of our own conscience and of Thee who seest our motives and knowest our hearts. We come in the solemnity of half-masted flags speaking of a personal and national tragedy.

In these perilous days, when servants of the state staggering under fearful burdens are constantly facing decisions that may affect the future of the Republic and the world, make our citizenship ever mindful of the terrific strain of public office, charitable in their judgments, sympathetic in their appraisals of those who without stint pour out their strength for the good of the commonwealth. Save us from bringing praise when it is too late, and from uninformed criticism which may savor of ingratitude and even of treachery. When day by day we have done faithfully the work Thou givest us to do, even though men may misjudge our aim, in quietness and in confidence may we leave the result to Thy unerring judgment. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1949

GOD OUR FATHER, in a world where the very foundations seem to be shaken, we cherish this hushed and hallowed moment which so long ago the founding fathers set apart as an altar of prayer at the day's beginning. Here bowing with contrite hearts, we would be sure of Thee and of spiritual resources before we go to meet the high solemnities of waiting tasks.

In the fateful conference of nations, now deliberating in the fair capital across the seas, strengthen the high resolve of those who strive to break the fetters which bind multitudes in regimes of coercion. Especially we pray for wisdom and guidance for those

who stand and speak for America. In an hour when such vast issues are at stake may those who here serve, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, rise to greatness of vision and soul, as the anxious eyes of all the nations are upon this chamber of freedom. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1949

GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we bless Thee for the cleansing ministry of memory and for the rich heritage of noble deeds as our Nation, founded in Thy name, turns to its stirring past and to its warrior dead. Even as bugles are sounding to new struggles for liberty's cause, prepare our hearts and minds for the sacramental journey to quiet cities of the dead where, under their tents of green, sleep those whose lives were offered as freedom's shield. Save us from decorating tombs and at the same time desecrating the costly heritage which it takes graves to guarantee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, we turn from memorial wreaths, and from the fluttering flags on countless grassy mounds, to face once more the never-ending struggle to maintain and preserve the freedoms which have been bought at so crimson a cost. From sea to sea of the homeland this radiant morning, where the grass has been trodden by reverent feet, and in little sacred patches of alien soil, where is kept the bivouac of our valiant dead, we see the crosses and the flags blending in their mute testimony. Knowing that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, as we fight democracy's battles in these days against cunning foes at home and abroad, may that cross and that flag speak to us of strength that is increased by its spending, of life that is saved by its losing, and of greatness that is measured by its serving.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, from the shams and shadows of mere things which are of the earth earthy, in this sacred moment, set apart at the beginning of the day, we turn unfilled to Thee praying for

strength for our burdens, wisdom for our problems, insight for our troubled times, and vision which sets its eyes on far horizons. For the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of all tyranny, for the redemption of democracy from its failures, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace for all the earth, we lift our hearts to Thee, O God of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1949

GOD OF ALL GRACE, whose dwellingplace is light without the shadow of our earthborn clouds, we, who at our best but see as through a glass darkly, come seeking the radiance of Thy presence. In these fateful days for whose decisions the future will judge us, may we maintain our integrity unsullied by animosities, prejudices, or personal ambitions, regarding always public office as a sacred trust. As with our fallible judgments we have a part in the shaping of the world that is to be, give to us the vision, the wisdom, the courage, that will make for both justice and lasting peace. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1949

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whom alone is the strength of our hearts and the hope of our world, we come in our noonday fellowship of prayer, not so much to seek Thee, as to open our faltering lives in penitence to Thy waiting strength. In the midst of events so colossal that, as individuals on the confused world stage, we seem puny and inadequate, O God who sittest above the flood of man's insanity, lift us into the only greatness we will ever know, by using us as the channels of Thy purpose and intent. Give us spaciousness of mind and a transparent purity of heart that, in a world stricken with hatred and pride, we may see clearly and follow faithfully the things that belong to our peace and to the peace of the whole world. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD: In these vernal days, thrilling and throbbing with the loveliness of spring, we thank Thee for every sacrament of beauty of which our enraptured senses partake. Thou hast called

us to play our part in a day of crisis and destiny. May we not be found wanting. Save us from being little men in a big day. Forgetting the unworthy things that are behind and stretching forth to the better things of a fairer world which are before, enable us to lay aside the weight of prejudice and the covetous sins that do so easily beset us, as with glad and eager feet we march with those who go to free and not to bind, to develop and not to rule, to cooperate and not to dominate, until the knowledge of the Lord, who is no respecter of persons, shall cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1949

FATHER OF ALL MEN, amidst the clamor of busy concerns and cares, for this hallowed moment we seek a quiet cloister of the soul, where spirit with spirit may meet. In this anguished day of the world's confusion and uncertainty, we pray that our own hearts may be purged and purified as we face the high demands of public good committed to our keeping. Override the errors of our faulty judgment. In these perilous times, through the sincere expression of differing appraisals, may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course be higher than our own. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1949

ALMIGHTY GOD, the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in Him, our Falther also, we beseech Thee to teach us to pray. Knowing that perishing things of clay are at the last but vanity and vexation of spirit, help us to love Thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. Wilt Thou enter into our lives this very day and make them Thine—redeem them from fear and frustration, equip them, and empower them by Thy heavenly grace that they may be adequate for all the demanding duties and responsibilities confronting us as servants of the commonwealth and of the needy world. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, again we bow at this altar of prayer, as into the calm and confidence of Thy presence we bring our drained and

driven souls that the benediction of Thy peace may fall upon our restless lives. Let not any indifference or callousness in us make Thy presence unreal.

Make sensitive our spirits that through Thy grace and power we may be cleansed and strengthened. Come close to us one by one, for we can do nothing together unless singly we are clean and strong.

In a world that is a neighborhood and must be a brotherhood or perish, join us to that saving minority that across the boundaries of prejudice, intolerance, and hatred extends the dominion of understanding and good will.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1949

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, at this ancient altar of dedication to the things unseen and eternal, we bow with the confident assurance that the faith of the founding fathers is living still in this dear land for whose dream of freedom they were willing to dare and to die. Spirit of Life, in this new dawn give us the faith that follows on. Thou hast called us to play our part in one of the creative hours of human history. Help us so to speak and so to act in this day of destiny that tomorrow we may live unashamed with our memories. Across the debris of ancient wrongs may our glad eyes see the glory of the coming of the Lord as selfish exploitation makes way for brotherhood and for man. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1949

O GOD OUR FATHER, for this hallowed moment, closing the doors to a noisy world full of terror and alarms, we come into this pavillion of quietness and peace to acknowledge our utter dependence upon Thee—Thou who hast made us for Thyself. Forgive us for smug satisfaction with ourselves and for cynical contempt of others. Purge our minds of prejudices which separate us from our fellow man. Cleanse our hearts of the uncleanness which blinds our eyes to the things that matter most. So may we be more worthy to belong to the one great family of Thy children and to take our place at the common table of humanity, where the bread of fellowship is broken and the wine of sacrifice is shared. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1949

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, whose ear is always open to the cry of contrite hearts, our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O God: In the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee and look up. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest places will be made plain.

Touch with live coals from off the altar of devotion the lips of these Thy servants who speak for so many and whose words are freighted with the power of life or of death. May those who have been called to administer the affairs of this Nation make daily choice of spiritual integrity amid the corruption that is in the world through the lust of power, that, being unafraid, they may contend steadfastly for the right as Thou dost give them to see the right.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1949

GOD, OUR FATHER, we would make our hearts, cleansed by Thy forgiving grace, a temple of Thy presence, knowing that only to the pure dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face.

In this hallowed moment, we bring to the altar of prayer our inmost selves, cluttered and confused where the good and the evil, the petty and the great, the wheat and the tares are so entwined.

May the eternal immensities shame our little unworthy thoughts and ways. In our private lives and in our public service, help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, once more, in Thy great mercy, the white scroll of a new day unfolds before us. We pray that this day our record may be kept unstained by any word or act unworthy of our best.

Give us this day our daily bread, not only of physical renewal but of spiritual sustenance, lest our souls starve in the far country of neglect or indulgence.

For our own sake and for the sake of the Nation whose servants we are called to be, and of a needy world in this desperate day, lead

us along the paths of righteousness to still waters and green pastures where our strained and jaded spirits may be restored by Thy redeeming grace.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, we come in the assurance not of our feeble hold of Thee but of Thy mighty grasp of us. We thank Thee for the sweet refreshment of sleep, restoring the frayed edges of care, and for the beckoning glory and the fresh vigor of the new day.

Across all its toiling hours, O Thou great companion of our souls, keep our hearts with Thee as once more our faces are set toward vexing social problems which tax our utmost to solve.

May we march with conquering tread in the gathering armies of friendship whose armor is the shield of Thy truth and whose sword is the might of Thy love, against which all the spears of hate cannot ultimately prevail.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's Name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, hushing our thoughts to stillness, we would school our spirits in sincerity and truth as we wait before Thee, who knowest the secrets of our hearts. In a world of suspense and suspicion and turmoil, breathe now in this quiet moment Thy peace on hearts that pray—the peace that comes only when our jarring discords are tuned to the music of Thy will.

Then, as heralds of good will, send us forth across all the barriers of race and creed, to make our contribution to the glad day when justice and understanding shall engirdle this worn and weary earth.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1949

O THOU, who dost speak to listening hearts in the Holy hush of the dawn and in the brooding quietness of the evening, speak to us now in the heat and burden of noontide's toiling. As we come to the high altar of patriotism in this temple of the people's hope

and trust, may it be with clear minds, clean hands, and courageous hearts.

Help us this new day to meet its joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its duties with fidelity.

In all deliberations of this day and of this week, keep our motives clean, our speech guarded, our appraisals fair, and our consciences unbetrayed. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1949

OUR GRACIOUS FATHER, as the oil of a new day opens before us, we would lay before Thee the problems and perplexities which burden our hearts. May all our meditations be acceptable in Thy sight. Bring all our desires and powers, we beseech Thee into conformity with Thy will. Bend our pride to Thy control. Give us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious and demanding day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching on in all the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, this sacred altar at which we bow, in the midst of another day's demands, is the witness of our weakness and the contrite confession that in Thee alone is the answer to our needs. Our hearts grow faint in the dust of our foolish pride. The cries of the crowd about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within. Weary of our fruitless quests and futile arguments, we turn to Thee in the humility of prayer. Grant us vision and wisdom that by our decisions here we may have a part in making earth's crooked ways straight when at last social and industrial relations will lose their hard antagonisms and become the hallowed cooperation of comrades in human service. We ask it in that Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, as another morning climbs to noon, ascending the hill of the Lord may we breathe the purer air above the dusty plains of the trivial and the temporary, here finding an altar of

pardon and peace. May the memory of Thy past mercies mingle like sweet incense with a strengthening assurance of Thy present nearness which no malignancy nor cruel violence of man's devising can snatch from those whose minds are stayed on Thee. We pause now for Thy benediction before turning to waiting tasks, grateful for a great heritage worth living and dying for and for a deathless cause that no weapon that has been formed can defeat. In Thy might lift up our hearts and make us strong. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1949

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever, we beseech Thee to grant unto us, who in the morning seek Thy face, fervently to desire, wisely to apprehend, and obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto Thee. Grant unto us all that, laying aside any partisan divisions, we may be given tallness of stature to see above the walls of our prideful opinions the good of the largest number. And in these perplexing times that try our souls and test our character, may Thy strength sustain us, may Thy grace preserve us, may Thy wisdom instruct us, may Thy might protect us and Thy hand direct us this day and evermore. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1949

OUR FATHER, GOD, with grateful hearts stirred anew as a Nation of freemen has been celebrating the birthday of the state, we bow with reverence within the walls of this historic Chamber saturated with national memories. We are vividly conscious this hallowed moment of invisible galleries filled with a cloud of witnesses from the heroic and creative past. These mellowed walls are vocal this hour. They speak to us of towering public servants, of legislators and judges, of momentous debates and decisions, of laws made and interpreted. These great figures of the yesterdays have entrusted to our hands the flaming torch of freedom once held by theirs. They admonish us that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Give us courage, give us vision, give us wisdom for the facing of these crucial days. May our America be the channel of Thy grace, helping to heal the open sores of this torn and tortured world. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1949

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, to whose kingdom of truth and love and justice the future belongs, it is Thy might which hath made and preserved us a Nation. Our fathers trusted in Thee and were not confounded. In Thee we trust. In these desperate and dangerous days, when evil forces without pity or conscience seek to degrade the human mind and spirit and threaten all the things we hold nearest our hearts, strengthen our will, that democracy's swift sword of moral might may stay aggressors and bring hope to men everywhere whose ruling passion is to be free. May we clearly see and faithfully follow the things that belong to our peace and to the peace of the world. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1949

ETERNAL FATHER, Thou only art the fountain of our being, the light of all our seeing. Our puny mortal strength alone is unequal to the tests and tasks of these terrific times which are upon us. We dare not trust our own devices and councils. Give to those, we pray Thee, who through the treacherous seas of this violent time pilot the Nation's course a revealing remembrance of the altars at which the founding fathers knelt, the ideals to which they were committed, the human rights to which they gave their fealty. For the radiant dream which we call America hear our vow as we too pledge our lives, fortunes, and sacred honor as security for freedom's greatest venture. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, again through sleep and darkness safely brought we face a new day. Wilt Thou lift our duty above drudgery. Even in the heat and burden of noonday's tasks let not our strength fail nor our vision fade. Make us patient and considerate one with another, in the fret and jar of human contacts, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way.

Give us, O Lord, a reverence for truth, a deep desire to think and speak truly, and a passion to hasten the day when the rule of justice

and love shall engirdle the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1949

O GOD, from whom all holy desires and all good counsels do proceed, with the morning rise mercifully upon our darkened hearts. In this tragic and tangled world we are conscious of our woeful inadequacy to sit in the seats of judgment, to balance the scales of justice, and to respond with equity to the myriad calls of human need.

Wilt Thou crown our deliberations with Thy wisdom and with spacious thinking to fit these epic days. Wilt Thou light our eyes with Thy sympathy for all mankind. As we face the questions which confront us and almost confound us, quicken in us, we beseech Thee, every noble impulse, and sanctify for human good our best endeavors. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1949

O GOD OUR FATHER, as in this pavilion of prayer we fling open the shuttered windows of our darkened lives to the light of Thy presence, may some broken beams of Thy glory shine upon our daily work. By the adventure of faith may we be victors over life, not victims of it. Teach us that to live worthily we must have a faith fit to live by, a self fit to live with, and a cause fit to live for. Enlarge the sensitive area of our sympathy for the shepherdless multitudes so broken by the burdens and stress of these cruel years. Give us such a vision of the appalling needs of this troubled world as to make us sharers with Thee in saving it from the worst that is in man, to the best that is in Thy will and plan when Thy kingdom comes. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own understanding, we would lift the difficult decisions of the public service into Thy holy light. Grant us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this dangerous yet challenging day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching

on to a brighter tomorrow when Thy kingdom shall come and Thy will be done in all the earth. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, as toils and turmoils testing our jaded spirits wait with each day's duty, we bless Thy name that at noontide stand these gates of peace that open to a holy shrine of prayer. In a world that lieth in darkness, swept by fitful winds of despair and doubt, we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within is not dimmed. In this desperate hour when the world's hope of a bright tomorrow is committed to our frail hands, join us to the great company of unconquered spirits who in evil times have preserved the heritage of man's best and whose flaming faith has made their lives as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom. We ask it in the ever-blessed name of that One who is the Light of the World. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, bowing for a hallowed moment at this shrine of Thy grace we acknowledge before Thee that our lives are like restless pools. We are disturbed by the social turmoil of our times, burdened by many anxieties, tempted to cynicism by human cruelty and tyranny, often disheartened by human folly which seems to profit so little by bitter reaping. We would lay our problems and tasks before Thee, not to escape them but praying for Thy empowering so that with strength and courage we may carry them with a new gallantry. In a divided and violent world make us among those whom the generations to come shall call blessed, because our records shall write our names among today's peacemakers. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, all the ways of our need lead to Thee; our deepest cravings but drive us to Thy everlasting arms. Thou alone art our refuge and our strength.

Help us to command this new day, meeting its joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its doubts with faith. Direct our steps. Guard us from error. Deliver us from all evil. Help us to sit where others sit, seeing life's tangled skein through the eyes of those less fortunate than ourselves. So make us faithful ministers of this stricken generation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1949

ALMIGHTY GOD who desirest truth in the inward parts, keep us, we beseech Thee, from the folly of attempting to deceive Thee, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known. As those whose powers are dedicated to the Nation's weal, make us ever faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim, responsive to the human needs of this suffering earth. Setting a seal upon our lips so that no thoughtless words of ours shall sting or harm another, valiantly may we meet this day's waiting tasks with kindness and cheerful good will. We ask it in that Name which is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1949

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the former times didst lead our fathers forth into this land, give Thy grace to us their children in these days of crisis and of vital decisions. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those who by the people have been trusted with responsibility and authority in these troublous times. For the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of all tyranny, for the opportunity still to be free souls, for the redemption of democracy from its failures, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace on the earth we lift our hearts to Thee, O God of our salvation.

In the quietness of this hallowed moment we ask for the consolations of Thy grace upon the honored Member of this body who this hour is sitting so suddenly in the shadow of a poignant grief, as he mourns the passing from his sight and side of the dear companion of the years, whose life was full of beauty and truth. We thank Thee for the triumphant certainty of our faith that what we call death is

but the portal to a larger room in the Father's many-mansioned house. Bring us all at last to the homeland of Thine eternal love. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1949

O THOU WHOSE APPROVAL WE SEEK above the hollow applause of men, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues that Thou might lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. Grant that those who by the people's choice have been called to high places of state in this hour when such vast issues are at stake, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, may rise to greatness of vision and soul as the anxious eyes of all the nations are upon this Chamber. Maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1949

O GOD, whose mercies are new every morning, into Thy merciful and guiding hand we this day commit our wills and our work, in confidence and calm. Open our ears, we beseech Thee, to hear the call of far horizons and the stirring trumpets of challenge sounding the advance to a new era for mankind.

In these days in which the souls of men are sorely tried, when so much is demanded of those who would serve the present age, grant us the divine strength and grace that we may prove worthy of every trust the Nation commits to our hands as on the anvil of vast issues there slowly takes shape the new and better world that is to be. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good councils, and all just works do proceed, as the torch of a new day lights a fresh path of duty we bow before Thee in humility and hope. With this golden gift of another day we pledge at this white altar of devotion integrity of character, purity of heart, cleanness of hands, and unswerving firmness of purpose in the fulfillment of our high and holy calling as servants of the Republic.

Dedicate us anew to the yet unfinished task that we may win the peace for which brave men have died. And Thine shall be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1949

O GOD, the might of them that put their trust in Thee amid all the subtle dangers that beset us, save us from the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own strength. In a world so uncertain about many things we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee. The din of words assails our ears from an agitated world. Grant us an inner calm undisturbed by any outer commotion. Give us courage to seek the truth honestly and reverence to follow humbly the kindly Light that leads us on.

So may the service of our brief hour contribute to the beauty and glory of our America as in a darkened world she lifts aloft the light of freedom. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1949

O GOD OUR FATHER, as we rejoice in the gift of another day, may its hours be made luminous by Thy presence, who art the light of all our seeing. In everything we are called to face may we do and be our best and so be worthy of our high calling.

Deliver us from all malice and contempt lest we hurt others and sour our own souls. May the lure of expediency never bend our conscience to low ends which betray high principles. Hear Thou our prayer as out of the depths we cry, asking for wisdom and strength as we bow at the alter stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1949

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee that Thou hast set eternity in our hearts. An empty seat in this Chamber speaks to us this morning of the solemn truth that in the midst of life we are in death. Our hearts are saddened by the sudden passing of a highly trusted and respected colleague and of a great-souled public servant. Upon his dear ones we pray for the consolations of Thy sustaining grace.

"A friend has passed
Across the bay
So wide and vast,
And put away
The mortal form
That held his breath;
But through the storm
That men call death,
Erect and straight,
Unstained by years,
At heaven's gate
A man appears."

Keeping to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, enable us to fill swift hours with worthy deeds, to bear the fret of care, the sting of criticism, the drudgery of unapplauded toil; and then, when our hour of departing comes, to leave the world the better for our sojourn in it. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1949

ETERNAL GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, amid the maddening maze of things that fill our toiling days with fever and fret we would tarry now in the shelter of Thy shadowing wings. For this moment we would stay the noisy shuttle of time that we may catch a revealing glimpse of the larger pattern it is weaving. Tune our tangled lives to the harmony of Thy purpose. Before evening comes and our work is done may our glad eyes yet see some victory of liberty over tyranny, of righteousness over injustice, of brotherhood over ruthlessness, of peace over war, in our hearts, in our Nation, and in all the world. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1949

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever, we beseech Thee to grant unto us who in the morning seek Thy face fervently to desire and obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto Thee.

Unite our hearts and minds to bear the burdens that are laid upon us. Grant unto us all that, laying aside any partisan divisions, we may be given tallness of stature to see above the walls of our prideful opinions the good of the largest number. In these perplex-

ing times that try our souls and test our character may Thy strength sustain us, Thy grace preserve us, Thy might protect us, and Thy hand direct us, this day and ever more. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, in the heat and burden of the days that drain our strength and demand our best, at noontide we would find the springs by the wayside that flow from the eternal silence of the Most High. For, as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so thirsteth our souls after Thee, O God! May we not miss the wells of living water whose elixir alone can refresh and restore our bodies and spirits from physical exhaustion and from spiritual impoverishment.

Save us from the numbness of routine and from all bitterness of heart. Override the errors of our faulty judgments. Through the sincere expression of differing appraisals may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course in these perilous days be higher than our own. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1949

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, to Thee we lift our hearts in prayer, bringing nothing but our need and the adoration of our contrite spirits. From Thy hands we have received the gift of life, the blessings of home and of friendship, and the sacrament of beauty. In the fullness of Thy mercy Thou hast given us work to do and the strength wherewith to do it.

Cleanse our hearts that Thou mayest work in us and through us the coming of Thy kingdom. In the vast difficulties confronting the makers of peace in these days so full of tension, restore and strengthen and sustain our souls and lead us in the paths of righteousness: For Thy name's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1949

O THOU, whose love passes understanding, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee which Thou hast planted in our hearts and for winged desires that disturb our lowest moods.

At the threshold of this day come down Thy secret stairs to our deepest needs as one by one we open our hearts to Thee. From the

fret and fever of the vexed world's problems, from all thought of the praise and blame of men, from discordant noises and confused conception which beat upon our senses, at noontide we would follow the path to the holy quietness of Thy presence.

May there fall upon us now a sense of Thy kingdom and Thy power and Thy glory. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1949

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou who art not far off, out on the vast rim of the universe, but nearer to us than breathing, a present help, waiting to live in us, our daily sustenance, the fountain of a courage that will not fail and of a power that can use our frail weakness as its healing and illuminating channel: In this confused day with its noisy voices and contending claims, grant unto these Thy servants that they may be faithful to every trust committed by the people to their hands, giving utterance only to their highest, noblest thought, and that upon their shoulders there may rest unsullied the white mantle of the Nation's honor. In the name of our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1949

OUR FATHER GOD, for the beauty which fills the earth and the love that hallows our homes and the joy that springs from work well done, we thank Thee, the source of all gladness. We bow with the confession that through this crucial period we have been, at best, unprofitable servants. Now unto Thy holy keeping we commit ourselves and all that we have done and said during these momentous times, in this forum of the Nation.

Wilt Thou bless and strengthen all that here has been worthily done, as these servants of the people have followed flickering lights in a dark hour. Pardon and overrule what has been done unworthily, or done amiss.

And now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us, and give us peace, peace in our own hearts, peace in this dear land of ours and peace throughout all the earth, now and evermore. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, with the gateway of an old year having noiselessly closed behind us, we come to open a new volume of personal and national responsibility. We humbly bow, this hallowed moment, with the solemn realization that no changes in calendars or sessions or chambers of debate and decision alter the fact of facts that until we find Thee and art found of Thee we begin at no beginning and come to no ending.

In an hour when such vast issues are at stake may those here called to high places of state, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand and the desperate times of which they are the servants, rise to greatness of vision and soul as the anxious eyes of all the earth are upon this Capital. Maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for new years and for new days and for new thoughts of God and for new hopes for a redeemed humanity and a cleansed earth. With the dim lamps of our own devices we cannot find a sure and clear path through the tangled maze of this stricken generation. Awaiting are solemn responsibilities of public welfare, decisions which make our wisdom or our folly affect the daily lives of untold millions. Who among us is sufficient for these things? Our needs of enlightenment are deep and inward. We pray that our personal record may be kept unstained by any word or act unworthy of our best. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1950

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GLORY, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. In a confused day keep our minds clear and clean and uncluttered by prejudice. In a clamorous day, filled with angry accents of hatred and falsehood, give us ears to hear the voices that speak of justice and freedom and world brotherhood. In a mad and sad day grant us sanity of mind and

spirit, purity of heart, and a glad hope which sees a shining ray far down the future's broadening way. And Thine shall be the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1950

O THOU GOD OF LOVE AND HOPE, through all the length of changing years, Thy goodness faileth never. Lead us this day in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. In these confused times save us from any panic of spirit, because we draw our inner strength from deep wells. Enable us to fill swift hours with mighty deeds; to bear the fret of care, the sting of criticism, the drudgery of unapplauded toil; to think clearly; to act kindly; to strike our blow for the preservation of freedom and, keeping to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, to leave the world better for our sojourn in it. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1950

O GOD WHO HATH TAUGHT US TO PRAY for the coming of Thy kingdom, strengthen all who are striving after true brotherhood and who are working for justice and peace. Restrain in us and in all men every temper which makes for war, all ungenerous judgments, all presumptuous claims, all promptings of self-assertion. Make us ready to recognize the needs and aspirations of other peoples and grant us the will to do what we can to remove misunderstanding and suspicion, at home and abroad. Give us courage and strength for the vast task of social rebuilding that needs to be dared if life for all men, under all skies, is to be made full and free. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, we turn to Thee from the perplexities and uncertainties which daily beset us, and bewildered by the confusion of the world we pray for relief from disquieting, cowardly fears. Lead us past all shams and subterfuges to Thyself. Our littleness needs Thy greatness. Our weakness needs Thy strength.

Grant this dear land of liberty in hours that are heavy with crisis the strength of purpose to do justly and to love mercy. Save us

from self-interest and self-righteousness, and make us the true servants of Thy will in this troubled time. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, this sacred altar at which our spirits bow in the midst of another day's demands is the witness of our weakness and of how fruitless are our quests and how futile are our arguments if we turn not to Thee in the humility of prayer. In these fateful days for whose decisions the future will judge us, by Thine enabling might may we maintain our integrity unsullied by animosities, prejudices, or personal ambitions, regarding always public office as a sacred trust. As our frail hands have a part in the shaping of the world that is to be, give to us the vision, the wisdom, and the courage that will make for both justice and lasting peace. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, at this daily altar dedicated to the far look, together we bow in the hush and joy of Thy presence, pausing in the morning tasks to listen for Thy call sounding in our ears. Lift us, we pray Thee, above the foggy valley of narrow loyalties and partisan interests to vaster vistas where small things are seen as small and great things as great. In all our attitudes and decisions give us perspective and horizon. Save us from substituting cheap shibboleths and slogans for costly thought and impartial investigation. Help us to recognize truth and to welcome revelation from whatever quarter they arrive.

Give us peace in our time, O God, peace with honor, with human dignity vindicated and social justice the canopy of all the nations. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1950

GOD OF ALL WISDOM, away from the confusion of tongues we seek this quiet pavilion of prayer. We confess that we but grope in the darkness and that our sight is dim, our knowledge partial, and our judgments fallible.

Lift us out of our doubt and cynicism by a great faith to live by, great causes to live for. Teach us to value beauty of heart or of brain, in any strand of our common humanity, that we may become workers together with Thee in binding the races of man into that perfect unity that shall yet belt the earth with good will, when Thy radiant kingdom comes. In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as in reverence we hallow Thy name, so may we hallow our own, keeping our honor bright, our hearts pure, our ideals untarnished, and our devotion to the Nation's weal high and true. Amid the tensions of these terrific days we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quite and certainty. Unworthy though we are, Thou hast made us keepers of the holy flame of freedom the fathers kindled with their lives.

We would be Thy ministers of abiding peace. Make us true servants of the common good and forerunners of Thy kingdom's coming. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1950

O GOD ETERNAL, IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, we would hush our busy thoughts to silence as we wait for Thy word. If we listen only to the clamor of the world without, we lose our way, our purpose, our peace, and our poise.

Override the errors of our faulty judgments. Through the sincere expression of differing appraisals may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course in these perilous days be higher than our own. Make our America more and more the hope of all who suffer and the dread of all who plot iniquity. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, at this altar of prayer we would be sure of Thy presence ere pressing duty leads us back to a noisy, crowded way. Speak to our waiting hearts words of forgiveness, of empowering, and of cleansing, that as servants of Thine and of the people we may the more worthily serve this great day as the hearts of men are stirring

with the throb of deep desire. May the great causes that concern Thy human family, the selfless ministries that heal the world and rebuild it, the attitudes that create good will and make abiding peace possible at last, command the utter allegiance of our labor and our love. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, everywhere present but often unreal to us because we willfully block the channels of our being by which Thou wouldst reach us, open our hearts now to one another and to Thee, as together we bow at this altar which the fathers builded.

We pray for ourselves and for the people of this dear land that genuine fraternity may increase among us and that intolerance and the mutual suspicions of class hatred may not shake our democracy. As we have undertaken here a government of, by, and for the people, may we not lack the spiritual quality without which no such government can long endure. Guide our Nation, in this solemn day of our responsibility and opportunity, to such use of its vast power as may cause all the peoples of the earth to rise up and call us blessed. We pray in the spirit of our Lord and Master. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, who art the light of all our seeing, we thank Thee for this quiet moment when, facing bewildering human issues, with heavy responsibilities committed to our hands, we can look away from things seen to things unseen and confidently express our faith in God we trust. We come asking that in the secret places of the inner life there may be those spiritual deposits and resources, that strength of conviction, that loyalty to ideals, that scorn of cowardly expediency, that shall give poise and courage and an undeviating devotion to the right as Thou dost give us to see the right. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, whose goodness and mercy has followed us all our pilgrim years and whose love will not let us go, this day may the meditation of our hearts and the words of our lips, unstained by

malice, selfish interest, or personal pique, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer. And in this forum of a nation's life may these servants of the people's will be so guided by Thy spirit that all their deliberations may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1950

LORD OF ALL LIFE, in the white light of Thy searching we would pause at the day's threshold to examine our inner desires and motives; that in this temple of democracy we may stand with pure hearts and clean hands. May we be saved from the dangers that lurk in warped judgments and in narrow loyalties.

Inspire and guide with the spirit of understanding these Thy servants, the few among the many lifted by their fellows to high pedestals of power and influence in a great and crucial day. May their counsels, so laden with possibilities to affect this stricken generation, add to the world's store of good will, and may their words be for the healing of the nations. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who art our refuge and strength, we commit ourselves and our Nation to Thee. In these fear-haunted days when violent and vicious forces violate every cherished right which mankind has slowly won, may even ruthless tyranny with its false promises reveal the spiritual glory of true democracy as in Thy name it anew sets up its banners.

Upon all who here labor with full purpose of heart for the purification of public life, for the removal of all that betrays and denies the creed of universal freedom we profess, let Thy blessing rest. Bring us to a golden tomorrow for all Thy children, when the shared plenty of the good earth shall wash the slums of the world into vague, unhappy memories. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, midst thronging duties and confused issues, in the quiet of this moment of prayer we would make our souls the

sanctuary of Thy spirit. Make plain to our understanding that our legislative enactments and our economic adjustments in themselves cannot bring social salvation, except as they clear the way for that spiritual strength without which we labor in vain, without which all else is as futile props against a decaying house that the Lord hath not made. Make us alive and alert to the spiritual values which underlie all the struggle of these epic days as on the anvil of vast issues there slowly takes shape the new and better world that is to be. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, who in the toils and troubles of time hast set vistas of eternity in our hearts, we come in a high hour of human destiny solemnized by the tangled tragedy in which all our human life is caught. Help us in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who will unite in mutual good will, determined to open the gates of a new life for all mankind.

Grant unto Thy erring and willful children moral control and a ruling passion for world brotherhood, lest the awful instruments of death and destruction now held in frail human hands scourge the planet and melt into brittle glass the fruitful earth. Make our lives as lighted windows of faith and hope amid the encircling gloom. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1950

O GOD, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth, amid the tragedy of a broken world in deep humility of spirit we ascend the altar stairs of this wayside shrine the fathers reared. In this testing day establish Thou our hearts, as we strive not in enmity against men, but against the evil which enslaves and degrades them. Startle us with the deep meaning for all mankind that a decisive hour has struck in the old story of our planet.

We thank Thee for men and women of good will under all skies, the saving salt of the tortured world, upon whose integrity of character and whose understanding sympathy for other nations and races

the hopes of tomorrow rest. As great ideas whose day has come beckon us to be their servants, save us from giving ourselves to the dead past rather than to the living future. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1950

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, as we bow in this quiet moment dedicated to the unseen and the eternal, confirm our abiding faith, we beseech Thee, in those deep and holy foundations which the fathers laid, lest in foolish futility we attempt to build on sand instead of rock. May we match great days with spacious thinking. Through the lips that speak in this forum of freedom, above all differences may there be heard by a listening world the solemn summons to men of good will, of all colors and all nations, to a new commonwealth of all peoples in which power shall be administered as a sacred trust dedicated to the common good. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1950

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, away from Thee all is darkness and death. In the midst of world conditions that baffle us, swift social currents which sweep away our strongest bulwarks, we confess that the world in which our lot is cast is too much for us; we must find a strength not our own or our feet will slip in this whelming flood. To Thy sustaining grace we would lift up, in this hallowed moment, the thronging duties which haunt us day and night, the grievous problems affecting Thy children in all the world for which our human wisdom finds no answer.

Heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might in this momentous hour. Spurning and scorning the unworthy may we rejoice only in the fair and fragrant virtues of an honor untarnished. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1950

GOD OF ALL MERCY, bowing at this altar of prayer may we be vividly conscious that we need not turn back to bygone centuries to hear Thy voice, as if Thou dost speak to men no longer in the living present.

Give us ears to hear Thy imperial imperatives, above the noise of crashing systems, yea, in and through the change and confusion of our day. So hearing and heeding the voice divine, may our devotion and compassion help to heal the open sores of the world, as we serve the present troubled age. In these days freighted with destiny, keep us true to our highest and to Thy unceasing challenge to our best. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant to our anxious, groping hearts the assurance that behind the shadows and in them standeth One who slumbereth not nor sleeps. We are beset by perplexity. Our needs are many, but our greatest need is of Thee. We confess that our own selfishness has hindered the coronation of Thy purposes for all mankind. We have too often sought a solution for human wrongs which would leave ourselves unchanged. We have been unwilling to pay the cost of better things.

So fashion our desires and deeds in accordance with Thy will that, rising to the full measure of our duty and our opportunity, we may be laborers together with Thee to build the new world for whose coming good men have bravely died and where the nations of the whole earth may live together in trust and fellowship. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1950

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, above all the commotion and confusion of the busy present with its bewildering demands, we would now turn aside to seek the quietness of Thy presence. In the secret of Thy pavilion we take refuge from the strife of tongues. By tasks too difficult for us we are driven unto Thee for strength to endure and for wisdom to rightly interpret the signs of these trying times. In the unknown days of peril and of challenge which loom ahead, give us spirits that are calm and confident, a trust in spiritual verities that nothing can shake and an assurance of the protecting shadow of Thy unfailing love. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we come seeking wide horizons around our noisy days. Through our preoccupied and cluttered lives we would clear a highway for Thy holy purposes. More potent than the raucous voices without may there come the whisper of a still voice within, heard only by obedient hearts. May all life, private and public, be to us as a sacrament. Make Thou our bodies Thy temples and our hearts Thy altars where the sacred flame is ever burning. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1950

O GOD, high and holy, above all our thought, the path of prayer but leads us to an appalling sense of our own need and to a poignant realization of how far we have fallen short of the glory of Thy plan for us and for mankind. Yet apart from Thee, our outlook for the future is clouded with apprehensions that haunt us and murder sleep, our minds are plagued with questions that we cannot answer as to how humanity, with the dread secrets of nature in its fumbling hands, can live on this planet in peace and security. Our hopes of a united world for which costly blood has been poured on the anguished ground seem ever to move into thin air from our eager grasp, like mirages of the desert. Make us such men that Thou mayest speak to us and that to this bewildered generation we may be the broadcasters of Thy voice and will. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and of nations, in all our ways would we acknowledge Thee. It is Thou who hath made and preserved us a nation.

Endue with Thy wisdom, we beseech Thee, our fallible minds. In these desperate and dangerous days, confronted with solemn problems that almost confound us, quicken in our hearts and minds every noble impulse and sanctify for Thy glory and for human good our best endeavors.

God the all merciful, earth hath forsaken meekness and mercy and slighted Thy word; yet falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee. Give to us peace in our time, O Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, from all the traditions which separate us and write our names in different camps of thought and conviction we pause for the upward look which makes us one in solemn, yet glad, communion with Thee.

Teach us so to live and so to toil and so to play our part in this age on ages telling that we may face with clear conscience the gaze of our contemporaries and the judgment of posterity. May our attitudes and hopes widen every area of good will within the reach of our influence. In a divided, fear-haunted, violent world, may we be among those whom the generations to come shall call blessed, because the record shall write our names among today's peacemakers. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, O Thou by whom the meek are guided in judgment and light riseth up in darkness for the godly, grant us in all doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what Thou wouldst have us to do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; and that in Thy light we may see light, and in Thy straight path may not stumble. In all the deliberations of this day keep our motives clean, our vision clear, our patriotism undefiled, our speech guarded, our appraisals fair, and our consciences unbetrayed. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1950

OUR FATHERS' GOD, with clamorous voices demanding our ears we would this day listen again to the calm and reassuring voice of the first President of the Republic, who still stands among us in lofty reserve. Being dead, he yet speaketh, with unerring judgment exhorting us to union and harmony. May his warning sentiments bequeathed for the meditation of all future generations come to us with undimmed freshness as a message for these troubled times. By patience and faith may we, like him, rise above the difficulties, discouragements, and dangers which confront us, in this day of desperate battle around the world, between truth and falsehood, liberty and tyranny.

So, as the ages roll on, may a grateful Nation cherish the luster of his virtues and the greatness of his service. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1950

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee which Thou hast planted within us. Open our eyes to see Thee and our hearts to feel Thee, not just out on the rim of the universe, in some distant star, but in human love which hallows our own lives, which at its best bears witness to Thee and alone can heal the hurt of the world. Conscious of Thy overshadowing presence, we pray for fidelity as we face the issues of these momentous days. Committing our souls unto Thee, who knowest the way we take, bring us forth as gold tried in the fire. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as we bow at this high altar of the national life, preserve us from praying with our lips only, and not with our hearts and minds. We come in an anxious hour of human destiny, solemnized by the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught. Help us in these trying days to rise above all that is base and small and to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, the safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite with us in mutual good will, determined to open the gates of a new life to all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1950

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, in a world swept by violent forces with which unaided we cannot cope, Thou only art our help and our hope. Through all the mystery of life Thy strong arm alone can lead us to its mastery. Thou hast made of our very restlessness a sign that without Thee we cannot be satisfied.

Fronting the claimant duties of this new week, steady our spirits with the realization of untapped power available to servants of Thy will if only they go quietly and confidently about their appointed tasks. Forgive us the distrust of ourselves, of life, and of Thee, and for the cowardly doubts which blind us to the heights which are full of the chariots of God. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1950

OUR GRACIOUS FATHER, as our thoughts are hushed to silence may we find Thee moving upon our minds, higher than our highest thought yet nearer to us than our very selves. Before the toil of a new day opens before us we lay before Thee the meditations of our hearts: May they be acceptable in Thy sight.

Prepare us for the solemn role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues that concern not only our own dear land, but all the continents and the islands of the sea. Make us ministers of that love which will not halt its growing sway until it joins all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples into one great fraternity. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, who are in heaven, and earth, and in all Thy works, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues to commune with Thee, source of all goodness, beauty and truth. May we know no glory but the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world our utmost service, unsullied by base motives of self-interest, as again with the golden gift of a new day we pledge at this white altar of devotion to maintain integrity of character, cleanness of hands, and unswerving firmness of purpose in the fulfillment of our high and holy calling as servants of the Republic. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, for another day, for another morning, for another chance to serve this troubled age, we are truly thankful. We beseech Thee this day to free us from fear of the future, from bitterness toward our fellows, from cowardice in face of danger, from failure before opportunity, from weakness when Thy power is available. Fill us with love that knows no barrier of race or class, with courage that cannot be shaken, with faith strong enough for the darkness, with strength sufficient for our tasks, with wisdom to meet life's complexities, with loyalty to Thy kingdom's goal. In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who puttest down the mighty from their seat and exalteth the humble and the meek, look with compassion upon our Nation as we strive to mend its flaws and make it the fit instrument of Thy will in these troubled days. History's tragic pages but remind us that Thy providence knows no favorites, that none can bend Thy justice and none can break Thy laws that shall not themselves be broken. Facing duties and decisions that far outweigh our own strength and our own wisdom, we ask for the guidance of the Kindly Light to lead us on o'er crag and torrent till the night be passed. Help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1950

ETERNAL FATHER, in a world that lieth in darkness, swept by fitful winds of despair and doubt, for this hallowed moment we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within is not dimmed. We lift our soiled and shadowed faces to the one true light, knowing that if we keep our hearts with Thee there is no darkness from without that can quench the light within. In this desperate hour when the world's hope of a bright tomorrow is committed to our frail hands, join us to the great company of unconquered spirits who in evil times have stood their ground, preserving the heritage of man's best, and whose flaming faith has made them as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, into the calm and confidence of Thy presence we would bring our drained and driven souls that the benediction of Thy peace may fall upon our restless lives. May this sacred shrine of daily devotion built by the fathers on this high hill of the Nation open for us vistas of green pastures and still waters where our jaded souls may be restored. In this difficult and desperate era be Thou our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, as patiently and obediently we follow the kindly light. As deadly perils threaten the birthright of our liberties, help us to close our national ranks in a new unity. Hasten the coming of that radiant kingdom when each man's

rule shall be all men's good and universal peace shall lie like a shaft of light across the lands and as a lane of beams across the seas. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who committeth to us the swift and solemn trust of life, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and the humblest work will shine and the roughest places be made plain. Teach us to value a conscience void of offense, and the royalty of inward calm above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments earth can give. May the tyranny of majorities and the tirades of minorities be equally impotent to sway us from the right as Thou dost give us to see it.

Along the road of this day, and of every day, may we walk with Thee in the bright fellowship of those who are able to say at the last, I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith. In the name of the Master of all good workmen, we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1950

GOD OF ALL GRACE, Thou hast ordained that not in cushioned seats of safety but in danger and stern conflict shall we find our strength and our triumph in these days when all mankind stands in the valley of decision. Steel our hearts to endure hardness as soldiers of the common good. For a part and a place on the side of the angels in the raging struggle against the powers of darkness and the principalities of evil, God of freedom and truth, we give Thee thanks.

At noontide, turning aside from the pull of conflicting opinions and the rivalry of personal loyalties, empower us, sustain us as, with our strength unequal to our tasks, we face the call of the world's great need. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, amid the darkness in which our sad world lieth, where hatred and tyranny still contend with good will and decency for the mastery of men's bodies and minds, may we steadfastly believe that the morning of a better day cometh. For light enough to walk

by through dark days, for inner strength to carry heavy burdens, for uncompromised courage to dare policies with no partisan advantage, for eyes to discern the truth and fearlessly follow it, we lift up our hearts to Thee, help of the helpless.

Breathe upon us now Thy benediction that we may march on as valiant pilgrims sustained by the confident hope that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of Thy radiant love. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the abiding peace of the universe, we bow before Thee in humility and reverence. Send us forth, on the threshold of a new day, armed with Thy power, to right wrong, to overcome evil; if need be, to suffer wounds and endure hardship, but in all things to serve Thee bravely, faithfully, joyfully; that, at the end of the day's labor, kneeling for Thy blessing, Thou mayest find no blot upon our shield.. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, grant us, we beseech Thee, the grace of toiling in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. We bring our stained lives to the holiness that shames our uncleanness, to the love that forgives our iniquities, to the truth that reveals our falseness, to the patience that outlasts our fickleness. In the brooding silence of this still moment before the rush of another day, may open windows of faith flood our darkness with light, that in Thy sunshine's blaze our life may brighter, fairer be. Give us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious yet demanding day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy purpose which is marching on. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, once more a new day with its golden hours lies before us. We are grateful for a laboring place in Thy vineyard.

In work that keeps faith sweet and strong Thou callest us to be fellow laborers with Thee.

In the midst of crushing cares and frenzied fears which characterize these troubled days, may the healing balm of Thy presence re-

store our jaded souls. Forgive the petulance of our impatience which is revealed in our discouragements, in our hasty judgments, in our childish outbursts, because the kingdom of love and justice and peace seems so long delayed. Strengthen us to play our part in the life of our times, to think clearly, to speak kindly, to act bravely, to walk in the light as Thou art in the light, to keep the faith, and at last to finish our course with the well done of the Master of all good workmen. We ask in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, spirit of light and truth, of beauty and freedom, bestow unto us, we pray Thee, Thy sustaining grace, that our strength fail not nor the vision splendid fade in the heat and burden of the day. Make us patient and thoughtful one with another in the fret and jar of these difficult days, remembering that each comrade by our side fights a hard fight and walks a lonely way. Teach us a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words, and a more healing touch for all the smart of this wounded world. Give us courage for the day and hope for the morrow. May we march with conquering tread in the gathering armies of friendship whose armor is the shield of Thy truth and whose sword is the might to Thy love, against which all the spears of hate cannot ultimately prevail. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, amid the tensions of these days freighted with destiny, we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty. As Thy servants and the people's, in this temple of democracy, save us from the perversion of power that has not Thee in awe. Upon the altar of freedom may there ever be lifted the offering of a humble and a contrite heart.

Come to us, we pray Thee, in the common life that entangles us. Meet us in the thorny questions which confront us. Make Thy highways through the very perplexities through which our fallible understanding can see no light. So, without stumbling and without stain, may we follow the gleam of the kindly light until the day is ended and our work is done. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, hushing our thoughts to stillness, in sincerity and truth we would bow before Thee who knowest the secrets of our hearts. We pause at this wayside altar not just in a passing gesture of devotion and then to go on our busy way with lives empty of Thee; rather, we come to ask Thy presence and Thy guidance as this day we face the stress of decisions, the strain of toil, the weight of burdens, the call of duty. Despite the brutalities of man to his fellow man, keep love's banners floating o'er us as we march breast forward, with undimmed faith, in the ranks of those who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1950

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, in a world swept by violent forces with which unaided we cannot cope, Thou only art our help and hope. Through all the mystery of life Thy strong arm alone can lead us to its mastery. Though our faces are shadowed by the tangled tragedy of these times, we lift them in faith to the light that no darkness can put out. In momentous days, save us from narrow partisanship that strangles patriotism pure and undefiled. Our intercession rises for our Nation, its President, the Congress, and all who influence its policies, and for the whole body of our people, that the fearful sacrifices of war may not end in disillusionment of mankind's hopes and the despair of our children after us. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1950

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, with minds burdened for the Nation and for the world in this desperate and baffling day, we turn to Thee, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. For all the glory which is America, we bless Thy name—for borders without guns, for frontiers which are swinging gates, for unity in diversity, for peace which spans a continent, and for equality which beckons all to the summits.

Strengthen in us the steadfast faith that these healing trees of democracy grown in this land of the free may blossom under all

skies in all the earth. Facing decisions of destiny, unite our hearts and minds, we beseech Thee, in a mighty purpose that we fail not man nor Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1950

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, to Thee we lift our hearts in prayer, bringing nothing but our needs and the adoration of our contrite hearts. In these days when human wisdom is bankrupt and human strength inadequate and despair tempts many minds, we are deeply thankful for the things that cannot be shaken and for the guiding lights of spiritual verities that no wind of violence can ever blow out. In this great hour of human destiny deepen in us the sense of surpassing opportunity and of glorious mission to do our part in averting a global catastrophe. May it be in Thy providence that our America, desiring nothing but peace for herself and for all the world, may have come to the kingdom for such a time as this. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, who desirest truth in the inward parts, we would come to Thee in that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Refresh our faith that the tensions of life may not break our spirits. As those whose powers are dedicated to the Nation's weal, make us ever faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim, responsive to the human needs of this suffering earth.

We thank Thee for every word of truth which has been spoken the wide world through, and for all righteousness which the human conscience has perceived and woven into the social fabric. With Thy benediction may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing and clear thinking, with hatred of all hyprocrisy, deceit, and sham, and in the knowledge that all great and noble service in this world is based on gentleness and patience and truth. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, from the tumult of an angry world we seek the sanctuary of Thy presence, not that we may escape the world but that we may turn to the perplexing maze of its baffling problems with

strong spirits and quiet minds. As we face ruthless foes without who threaten the precious things we hold nearest our hearts, may we be masters of ourselves, remembering that a nation's worst foes may be those of its own household, and that he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city. Make us worthy to look unashamed into Thy face as we say with full purpose of heart, "We lift our living Nation a single sword to Thee."

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, maker of all things, judge of all men, solemnize our hearts with reverential, penitential awe as in these holy days over which is the shadow of a cross we follow the wounded footsteps of man's best man, of love's best love. Teach us anew, as we look on Him in whose face Thy glory is revealed, the pretense of pride, the hollowness of ambition, the vanity of power, the deceit of riches, the disillusionment of fame. In the set and steadfast face of that servant of all, who rides on to die, may we see anew the might of love, the royalty of self-giving, the majesty of meekness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, in the holy pilgrimage of this sacred week we fain would join devout multitudes treading the way of sorrow, as we lift our eyes to a green hill outside a city wall and to a lone cross against the sky, a cross so old and yet so new. As crusaders in the holy cause of human freedom may we conquer by that sign which forever is the inspiring symbol of joy through sorrow, strength out of weakness, triumph out of failure, song through sacrifice, gain through loss, and life through death.

O Thou whose nature is unbroken serenity, in these disturbing times make us quiet before Thee, quiet enough to see the paths our feet must tread, quiet enough to hear Thy voice, quiet enough to realize that in Thy will is our peace. We ask it in the name of Him who said, "My peace I give unto you," even in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who art behind the shadows and in them, we turn to Thee in whom there is no darkness at all. Even with the encircling gloom about us, in patience and fidelity may we guard the flickering flame of the light within. Grant by Thy grace that in our particular sphere of public service we may not be found wanting in this solemn hour of world crisis, when the bugles are sounding and the battle is set.

In this Holy Week of the Passion strengthen our faith in the final overthrow of evil and the enthronement of righteousness and truth. In confidence we commit ourselves and our nation unto Thee, who knoweth the way that we take and who hath promised that following the Kindly Light we shall come forth like gold tried in the fire. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1950

GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD, from the beauty of the lilies in temples of worship in the afterglow of Easter Day we come girding ourselves with its deathless message, as again we take up our daily tasks "feeling through all this earthly dress bright shoots of everlastingness." In our own risen lives, seeking those things which are above, enable us to challenge with the conquering truth of Easter all tyrants who denying it deal in falsehood and chains, as they exploit and degrade the holy temple of human personality. Knowing there is no way to dawn except by dark, or to Easter except by Calvary, may we face whatever the future holds calm and confident in the assurance that—

"There lives the beauty that man cannot kill,
Yea, that shall kill all ugliness at last;
And Christ in love's white vesture moveth still among us.
May we hold that faith and hold it fast."

Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, hope of the souls that seek Thee, strength of the souls that find Thee, grant unto these chosen servants of the Commonwealth, pushed and pressed by grave questions and vexing problems, the refreshment and renewal which shall make them adequate

to serve the present age. Make them conscious of eternal verities that outlast the strident noises of any day.

We cannot adequately face such a world so full of violent and dark deeds and make our humble contribution to the healing of its tangled, tragic state unless we keep untarnished our faith in Thy power to make even the wrath of men praise Thee, and in Thy ultimate purpose for mankind. Give to us peace in our time, O God. To our stricken generation may there come peace with honor, with human dignity vindicated and social justice the panoply of all the nations. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we come seeking wide horizons around our noisy days. Through our preoccupied and cluttered lives we would clear a highway for Thy holy purposes. As we have undertaken on this continent a government of by, and for the people, may we not lack the spiritual quality and a sense of the divine sovereignty, without which no such government can long endure.

Grant us such a vision of the vast sweep of Thy purposes that we may be delivered from the bondage of irritating trifles and be less disturbed by the little annoyances of everyday life. Help us to learn such wisdom and serenity that the depths of our hearts may remain calm, however others may disturb the surface of our lives, and so to correct our perspective that little things may not distort our vision of the eternal splendors. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, eternal, sure, and strong when the world seems falling to pieces around us, when so many hopes are dashed to the ground and so many dreams shattered, help us to stay our minds on Thee and in the strength of those everlasting values that nothing can destroy. Beauty remains, and truth and kindness. Friendship abides, and love and faith and hope. These possessions remain unsullied by violence and hate and untouched by any assault of evil.

Keep us very close to the things that matter most, that through constant thought of them and seeking to possess them, through all

these storms, our souls may abide in the secure haven of Thy peace. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, in the midst of the distracting problems of today, with all our unhappy divisions, grant us a vision of our dear land fair as she might be; a land of justice where none shall prey on others; a land of plenty for all, where vice shall cease to fester and where slums have disappeared; a land of true brotherhood, where success shall be founded on service and honor be given to worth alone. Hear Thou, O Lord, the silent prayer of our hearts for these servants of the state, as they give their time and strength and thought to hasten the day of our America's coming beauty and righteousness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1950

GOD OF ALL GRACE, in the darkness of our limited knowledge in our deep need we turn to Thee whose dwelling place is light, without the shadow of our earthborne clouds. To all the phantoms of brutal hatred which devastate our world we would close our eyes for this hallowed moment and still our souls in the calm assurance that at the heart of the universe goodness reigns. Thou hast declared that there is no permanent power based on a refuge of lies and that when men know the truth, the truth shall make them free. In that faith send us forth without fear or favor to do the right as Thou dost give us to see the right, firm in our conviction that these clouds are lies and that the blue sky is the truth. At last, may we be counted by grateful generations who shall inherit a kindly earth, among the architects of that final parliament of peace and plenty in which every kindred and tongue shall have its rightful place. We ask in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast entrusted this earth unto the children of men and called us unto a heavenly citizenship, grant us, we humbly beseech Thee, such shame and repentance for the disorder and injustice and cruelty that blights our world that, fleeing unto Thee

for pardon and for grace, we may with full purpose of spirit set ourselves to establish that city which has justice for its foundation and love for its law.

Forgive our national sins and our social sins. Forgive our sloth and indifference to great public issues when through the indifference of the many injustice and greed and tyranny flourish. In this hour of peril raise up men of spiritual vision and decisive action. Let the flag of freedom for which so many have suffered and died fly from the castle of every heart as the bugle of Thy call wakens our souls in this crucial day and musters for service our feeble wills. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as we draw near to Thee we come confessing that our own faith is often weak and frail; we are full of doubt and questioning, our minds become puzzled and confused; Thy ways with men seem past finding out; wickedness seems so rampant and strong, goodness so rare and so feeble. As we pause at this wayside shrine of devotion strengthen our confidence in the supremacy of spiritual verities, banish our doubt as the dawn banishes the shadows of the night. May we become sure of Thee as men who watch through the night become sure of the coming of the dawn. Raise us up. Forgive us. Enhearten us. Strengthen us. Send us forth as sons of the morning to bring Thy light to every shadowed area of the world and to every shadowed life which touches ours. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, through the lowly gateway of penitence we would enter the inner chamber of peace where the harsh noises of the clamorous world are hushed and in quietness of spirit we face ourselves and Thee. Take us as we are with impulses, strivings, longings, so often frustrated and thwarted, and even with what is broken and imperfect make Thy dreams for Thy children come true. In the midst of confusions and perplexities of these days in which we are called to serve, help us to be—

"True to all truth the world denies,
Not tongue-tied by its gilded lies,
Not always right in all men's eyes;
But faithful to the light within."

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1950

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH, robed in the blooming garb of spring; for the tint of the tiniest flower, we raise our morning hymn of praise.

In our deep concern for the Nation and for mankind everywhere and in our grim resolve at any cost to balk the forces of darkness which threaten our heritage of freedom, we ask that our strength may be as the strength of 10 because our hearts are pure. Give us the insight, the faith, the courage, in these days of destiny, to escape the futile repetition of old error and the restoration of ancient evils. Let not ignorant nor mean partisanship, nor selfish greed block the way to a new order with hope of lasting peace, enlarging brotherhood and universal justice, a world with all things made new in which the young lives offered on the altar of freedom and of righteousness shall not have died in vain. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the hunger of heart which leads us to this pavilion of prayer where we are united in a common fellowship of yearning and aspiration. We turn to Thee as the true home of our spirits. Our littleness needs Thy greatness, our weakness needs Thy strength. We have found that apart from Thee we fail to do our best and reach our highest, and that unless we find our rest in Thee and our peace in Thy will we lack poise and tranquillity. In this quiet moment, lead us past all shams and subterfuges to Thyself.

Grant this dear land of our, in days that are heavy with crisis, the strength of purpose to do justly and to love mercy. Save us from self-interest and self-righteousness. From yielding to melancholy moods that depress others, from the sullenness of temper that drives

the sunshine from other faces, from the defeatism that shrinks from the summons to do battle with gloom and with falsehood wherever it is entrenched, good Lord, deliver us. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee that Thou hast implanted within us the breath of a divine life, that there is an infinite in us which, with all our cunning, we cannot quite conceal beneath the finite; that by our very natures we hunger and thirst after Thee. Forgive us that, knowing this, we so often seek to satisfy the deepest cravings of our spirits with the things of time and sense.

We pray that in our tasks we may be preserved from impatience and depression. Increase our faith, mellow our judgments, deepen our affections. Grant us some part in the fulfillment of Thy mighty purpose for the world. Amid all the distraction of this complicated modern life of ours, keep our hearts childlike and trustful, that the gates of the kingdom, closed to the merely clever and conceited, may be opened unto us as we come in the simplicity as it is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, high over all, blessed forever, whose dwelling is the light of setting suns, the round ocean, the living air, the blue sky, and in the mind of man, we lift our hearts to Thee. Thou makest Thyself known in the stillness. May we become aware of Thy healing presence in this hallowed moment. Grant us to rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to finer and better things. Nourish within us a divine discontent, that we may be restless among the things that spoil the music of our common humanity. Plant a cross in our hearts and let it burn out all vanity and pride. Set us apart to be builders of a better world, architects of nobler international relationships.

Thou hast shown us, O Lord, what is good. Enable us to perform what Thou dost require, to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1950

ETERNAL FATHER, Thou only art the light of all our seeing; our helper Thou, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. We thank Thee for memories of our fathers who in turbulent days maintained their souls in faith and came forth more than conquerors. Beget in us, their children, the secret of their strength. And in these days, let us not be affrighted. To our Nation and to ourselves, grant inner steadfastness that the rage of men may not shake. Our puny, mortal strength is unequal to the tests and tasks of these terrific days that are upon us. The arm of flesh fails us. We dare not trust our own devices and counsels. By Thy sustaining grace may our hearts be steadied and stilled, purged of self, emptied of strain and stress, filled with peace and poise, satisfied each new morning just to awake and find Thee there; for Thine is the kingdom to which the future belongs, and the might and majesty, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 8, 1950

O THOU SEEKING SHEPHERD OF OUR SOULS, from the arid wastes of our own foolish and perverse ways lead us into green pastures and beside still waters. We lift our hearts to Thee in the amazing wonder that Thou hast ordained for Thyself no completion without us; and for us, no peace, no lasting joy, apart from Thee. May we be worthy of the high trusteeship of power and opportunity which Thou hast committed to us. May this Nation under God be purged of its own failures to practice genuine democracy. With the anxious eyes of the world upon us, keep us in America from all that is narrow, selfish, and petty, by the solemn remembrance that on a global field tyranny and freedom are battling for the bodies and souls of men. We ask it in the name of that Holy One whose face was the home of all men's dreams and the answer to all men's prayers. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, bowing our heads and our hearts at this noontide altar, we would be still and know that Thou art God. When so many hopes are dashed to the ground, so many dreams shattered,

help us to rest our minds in Thee and in the strength of those everlasting values which nothing can destroy.

Grant us sweet reasonableness in all our dealings with our fellow men and with each other. Make us large-hearted in helping and generous in criticizing. Keep us from unkind words and from unkind silences; yet sure and strong in the faith that is in us wherever we are called to stand in this epic hour may we strike our blow for the truth of God and the freedom of man. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, in the midst of the night, O Lord, we whisper that soon the darkness will give way to dawn; in the tide's far ebb, we know that it will return; in the midst of winter we cry to our hearts, soon the green banners of the spring will blow throughout the land. For these certainties we give Thee thanks, O God, who faileth us never; yet for one other certainty we thank Thee ever more, for surer than morning, surer than the returning tide, surer than the coming of spring, surer still are we that Thou art our friend forever, and that they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

In these days of crisis and decision, give us the vision that moves, the strength that endures, the grace of that Holy One who wore our flesh like a monarch's robe and walked our earthly life as a conqueror in triumph. We ask it in His ever blessed name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1950

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever, make us ready, we beseech Thee, on the threshold of each new day to go forth armed with Thy power, seeking on the high road of public office to right wrong, and to overcome evil.

Grant unto us all that, laying aside any partisan divisions, we may be given tallness of stature to see above the walls of our prideful opinions the good of the largest number. Unite our hearts and minds to bear the burdens that are laid upon us and in all things to serve Thee bravely, faithfully, joyfully; that at the end of the day's labor, kneeling for Thy blessing, Thou mayest find no blot upon our shields. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the abiding peace of the universe, our lot has been cast in this strange and difficult time; so many things distract us; often our lives become feverish and hectic and irritable. Help us so to confront the problems that baffle us that from them may come victory in our own souls and spiritual gain for the world. Teach us the secret of dwelling in a world full of hate and yet not becoming hateful persons. Giving our best ability to the people's good, may we rise above all bitterness by an unshakable faith in the shining splendor of humanity. So may we be the obedient servants of the Father of all, who shall not fail nor be discouraged till He hath set judgment in the earth and in the isles which wait for His law. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou dost gladden our eyes and thrill our beings with the glory of Thy handiwork. Thou hast written Thy law in our hearts. In Thy fellowship alone we find peace for our spirits and power for our tasks. On every side Thou hast multiplied Thy benedictions. For the beauty of nature, in which Thou hast housed us like royal children in a palace, we thank Thee.

Save us from walking in a rich world yet being poor because our eyes are holden and our hearts calloused and insensitive.

In days of crisis and alarm, which are also days of opportunity and privilege, raise up the spirit of this people into unselfish citizenship. Make us hate with a deep and persistent hatred the things that should be hated and regard with holy indignation any act or attitude that betrays the public trust. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, may the hush of Thy presence move us in this hallowed moment to adoration; and may all other voices be stilled that Thine may be heard. We wait for Thy benediction that we may face whatever the day brings in the certainty of Thy guidance, in the glory of Thy service and in the solemn realization that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

Speak to us now, through the silence, and, ere duty lead us back to a noisy, crowded way, vouchsafe to our waiting hearts assurance of forgiveness, of cleansing, of empowering, that as servants of Thine and of the people we may the more worthily serve this great day, when the hearts of men are stirring with the throb of deep desire for more abundant life. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1950

O GOD, in whose strong hands are the threads of every man's life; who under all the wild commotion dost still control the evil forces which seem to defeat Thy purpose and hinder Thy kingdom: Into Thy hands we would commit our lives, with all their powers and all their desires. We confess that our peace is often so ill-founded that we lose it easily and then rush to all sorts of subterfuges in order to recover it or make ourselves forget.

In this quiet moment may there come a revealing glimpse of reality, reminding us that there is no peace which is not the gift of Thy love. Grant us so to love Thee with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our souls, and our neighbor for Thy sake, that the grace of charity and brotherly love may dwell in us, that sadness and despair may flee away, and all envy, harshness, and ill will be transmuted to kindness and understanding. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1950

MOST GRACIOUS LORD, Thy mercy is over all Thy works, and new mercies, each returning day, hover around us while we pray. As, when curtains are lifted, through the smallest window streams the light of a vast and distant sun, so Thou, whose light fills all the universe, illuminate the rooms of our being which are darkened only because we shut Thee out. And not only for ourselves, but for our Nation, we pray: that it may not miss the true path, amid the world's confusion. In such a day, as stewards of the future, give us, O Lord, an undimmed faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and a will to labor valiantly for the things for which we pray. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt make this moment of devotion a pavillion of Thy peace, as trusting only in Thy mercy we bring our soiled souls to Thy cleansing grace. We come with heavy burdens on our minds and hearts for our Nation and for the world. We come with deep anxiety concerning the future our children will inherit from our hands. Yet we live and labor in the faith that Thy truth is marching on, even in the perplexities of these terrific days. Take us, we pray Thee, as we are, with unfulfilled purposes and disappointed hopes, with impulses, strivings, longings, so often frustrated and thwarted; and even with what is broken and imperfect in us make Thy radiant dreams for all Thy children come true. We ask it in the name of Him who made human life a sacrament and a cross a throne. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, the might of them that put their trust in Thee; amid all the subtle dangers that beset us, save us from the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own strength. In a world so uncertain about many things, we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee.

As the toil of a new week and a new day opens before us, may the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight. Bend our pride to Thy control. Prepare us for the role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues and decisions that concern not only our own dear land, but all the continents and the islands of the sea. Grant that our hearts may be shrines of prayer and our Nation a bulwark for the oppressed and a flaming beacon of hope whose beams shall battle the darkness in all the world. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, who desires truth in the inward parts, we would come to Thee in that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Keep us, we beseech Thee, from the folly of attempting to

deceive Thee, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known. As those whose powers are dedicated to the Nation's weal, make us ever faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim. With Thy benediction may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing and clear thinking, with hatred of all hypocrisy and sham, and in the knowledge that all great and noble service in this world is based on gentleness and patience and truth. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, in a world swept by violent forces with which, in our own strength, we cannot cope, Thou only art the rock of our salvation. Through all the mystery of life Thy strong arm alone can lead us to its mastery. In a time when the world's hopes depend on personal character, may there be found in those who are here called to serve the Republic those spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and peace out of strife. As those into whose unworthy hands in this day of peril has been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, may the thoughts of our minds and the sympathies of our hearts, the words of our lips, and the decisions of our deliberations be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, in the brooding silence of this still moment, may open windows of faith flood our gloom with light, that in Thy sunshine's blaze our day may brighter, fairer be. Even as we come to the altar of prayer our minds are plagued with questions we cannot answer, as to how humanity, with the dread secrets of nature in its fumbling hands, can live on this planet in peace and security. O God, the answers for which we gropingly seek in the darkness of our own devices are hidden in Thy heart.

Give us, we pray Thee, inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this demanding day, that even amid the tensions of human relationships we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching on. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, from remembered yesterdays we come with grateful hearts. On countless grassy graves the starry flag this day bears mute testimony to the sacrificial deeds of the valiant dead. We dedicate afresh all that we have and are to the unfinished tasks before us. On this significant day of deliberation we pray that there may be given to the chosen representatives of this free land a sense of the most solemn responsibility, in an hour dark with peril and freighted with destiny. As appraisals are given, needs assessed, and cooperation urged by those whose liberty is threatened, may our strength, which is ours as a trust for all humanity, be speeded to buttress the weak in their determination not to surrender to ruthless tyranny.

So fashion our desires and deeds in accordance with Thy will that, rising to the full measure of our duty and opportunity, we may yet build the fair and decent world for which good men have bravely died, wherein men and nations may live together in concord and fellowship. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who in these searching days art sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat, who hast ushered us into this strange world where no good thing cometh save as we fulfill the conditions of its coming, strengthen us for the high enterprise of being laborers together with Thee in building a more decent world where Thy children may dwell in plenty and fraternity and liberty. Though the road to peace for our time and for our children's children be tedious and toilsome, still lead us on, with patience following the gleam of Thy guidance, with clear heads and pure hearts, worthy of the trust the Nation has committed to our hands. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1950

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE, who hath taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: In the midst of the high concerns of public service in this demanding and confusing day of

global change, we are grateful for quiet cloisters of the spirit where, in moments of reverential calm, Thou dost restore our souls.

Save us from losing our peace, our perspective, our tempers, when all around others are losing theirs and blaming it on us. In times of crisis, deliver us from disbelief in each other and thus weakening the defenses against a common foe. In paths beyond our human eye to discover, lead us to that concord which is the fruit of righteousness, as we bring every thought and effort into captivity, to that high and holy One of whom it is declared, "And the government shall be upon His shoulders." Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, in this still moment before turning, as we must, to national and global problems, make us vividly aware of Thy divine invasion through all the areas of our being, spiritual and intellectual. Give us the grace of hospitality to the highest. Save us from being subdued and submerged by opportunism or defeatism. As citizens of a world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of help and healing. At this high altar in the temple of public service maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1950

ETERNAL GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, amid the maddening maze of things that fill our toiling days with fever and fret, we would tarry for this hallowed moment in the pavilion of prayer. May our eyes be lifted up from the ground beneath them to the eternal hills of peace and power whence cometh our help.

From shams and shadows we turn unfilled to Thee, asking for strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight for our times, and vision which sets our eyes on far horizons. Before evening comes and our work is done, may our glad eyes yet see the victory of liberty over tyranny, of righteousness over injustice, of peace over war, in our hearts, in our Nation, and in all the world. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, at this white altar of prayer and of peace where all the opinions and convictions which divide us grow dim and are forgotten, in the solemn spiritual verities that bind us together, we bow in reverence and humility praying for the enthronement of brotherhood in all the earth. May the institutions of justice, understanding, and cooperative endeavor never be sabotaged by bad faith; but, rather, become the instrument of Thy providence in bringing at last the fulfillment of the prophet's dream: "Violence shall be no more heard in thy lands, wastage nor destruction within thy borders."

Through the lips that speak in this forum of freedom may there be heard by a listening world the solemn summons to men of good will, of all kindreds and tongues, to a new commonwealth of all peoples, in which power shall be administered as a sacred trust dedicated to the common good. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1950

O THOU FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, who hearest prayer and to whom all flesh shall come, breathe upon us now, in this quiet moment, we beseech Thee, the benediction of Thy holy calm. Lift the burdens of drab duty from our jaded hearts, restoring our souls and changing stern statutes into glad songs. Kindle on the altar of our hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world that shall consume in its white heat every grosser passion and unworthy ambition. Strengthen our faith in each other. Heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might in this decisive hour. Guard our lips from chilling criticism which may wound some comrade plodding bravely by our side. Bring all our thoughts and actions into captivity, to that which is high and holy and of good report. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1950

OUR FATHER, again through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we face a new day. Wilt Thou lift our duty above drudgery. Make us patient and considerate one with another in the fret and jar of human contacts, re-

membering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way. Help us to make public life a pursuit of the best, and, casting aside all counsels of despair, press on with buoyant feet, firm in the faith that for ourselves, our Nation, and the world, the best is yet to be. Give us, O Master divine, a reverence for truth, a deep desire to think and speak and act truly, and a passion to hasten the day when the rule of justice and love shall engirdle the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in the creative faith by which we really live we would bow at the altar of prayer so that even before we speak we may listen. The very justice and social welfare we are here as public servants to preserve, promote, and to protect, is rooted and grounded in Thy sovereignty. Against the debasing idolatry of the police state which, instead of shrines of prayer, rears prisons of the mind and heart, we have pledged our all. Even as with the sword of our material might we face the forces of evil rampant in the world today, we know that more vital than earthly armament, if we are to be the instruments of Thy purpose, is the putting on of the whole armor of God; for only as we fight in that shining mail can we be among the peacemakers who are called the children of God.

Keep us steadfast with the shield of Thy truth against which all the spears of hate cannot ultimately prevail. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, we thank Thee that Thou art not far off, out on the vast rim of the universe; but nearer to us than breathing; warm, sweet, tender, a present help, waiting to live in us, to work through us; our daily sustenance, the fountain of a courage that will not fail and of a power that can use our fallible weakness as its healing and illuminating channel.

In this confused day, with its noisy voices and contending claims, grant unto these Thy servants that they may be faithful to every trust committed by the people to their hands, giving utterance only to their highest, noblest thought; and that upon their shoulders there may rest unsullied the white mantle of the Nation's honor. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the sweet refreshment of sleep, restoring the frayed edges of care; for the fresh vigor of a new day; and for all the beckoning glory of June enchantment. Across all the toiling hours before us, O Thou great companion of our souls, keep out hearts with Thee as once more our faces are set toward vexing social problems which tax our utmost to solve.

May we take heed of all the judgments of those who share with us the responsibilities of statecraft, and gather gratefully and patiently whatever truth they hold. But teach us still to test all things by our own conscience, and always to do the right as Thou dost give us to see the right. And, in these days that try men's souls, strengthen our weakness, curb our ill tempers; bring courage for cowardice and invincible faith for blighting cynicism. In the decisions here to be made in crucial days ahead, make us worthy of these demanding times that call aloud for wisdom and character. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1950

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking, have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmities; strengthen us in all noble purposes and daily increase in us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and knowledge and true godliness. Dowered with privileges as no other nation, may the richness of our heritage be to us Thy call to protect the weak and exploited, to unshackle the enslaved, to clear the way for freedom, that through the potent ministry of our dear land all peoples of the earth may be blessed. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1950

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee Thou hast planted in us. Open our eyes to see Thee, not out on the far rim of the universe, in some distant star, but in human love which hallows our lives and which edges with crimson and gold the common days.

Conscious of Thy overshadowing presence, we pray for fidelity, not to shirk the issues of these momentous days. May our own lives freed of pettiness and prejudice, and radiant with good will which leaps all barriers, be channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as noontime marks the hurrying day and our words are hushed to silence, we would bathe our hearts and minds in the glorious thought that amidst all life's changing scenes we are with Thee.

Purge us, we beseech Thee, of low desire. Lift us to high resolve. In this great hour of human destiny, deepen in us the sense of surpassing opportunity and responsibility, yea, of a glorious mission to do our full part in averting a global catastrophe as our willful world is given one last chance to make this earth a decent habitation for all Thy children. May it be in Thy providence that our America, desiring nothing but peace for herself and for all the world, may come to the kingdom for such a time as this. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1950

O GOD OUR FATHER, in all the confusion and perplexity of these convulsive days, our faith looks up to Thee, who dost overarch our fleeting years with Thy eternity and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength. Standing in these epochal days in the valley of decision, strengthen our will to choose that which is morally excellent rather than that which is politically expedient. May we never hesitate when the choice is between honor and calculation.

Our hearts in sympathy leap the seas this morning with the solemn realization that this very hour, under eastern skies, men are dying for freedom rather than to live as slaves.

> "God the all-righteous One,
> Man hath defied Thee,
> Yet to eternity standeth Thy word.
> Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee,
> Give to us peace—a righteous peace—
> In our time, O Lord!"

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we bow this day in a spirit of solemn dedication as, in the onsweeping events of these troubled times, this dear Nation of our hope and prayer has come to an hour of destiny and decision. We thank Thee that in our ears is the sound of the Liberty Bell ringing once more around the earth. We would keep step with Thy purpose for all mankind as "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of good and falsehood, for the good or evil side, ere that choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light."

As our starry banner floats this June day in the free breeze of heaven it speaks to us of an awful sense of divine destiny, as our Nation prepares to take its part as the instrument of Thy providence in all the earth. We humbly pray that wherever it waves it may be to all men the emblem of freedom, equality, brotherhood, and justice; that wherever it is carried it may bring hope to the downtrodden, emancipation to the shackled, and doom to the thralldom of tyrants as, with the flags of united nations who cherish liberty more than life, it moves forward to meet and to make the future. In the name of that One whose truth makes all men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, amid the tensions of these terrific days we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty. Unto our keeping Thou hast committed a national heritage luminous with freedom's glorious light. For all the glory which is America, we bless Thy name. For borders without guns, for frontiers which are swinging gates, for unity in diversity, for peace which spans a continent and for equality which beckons all to the summit.

Strengthen in us the steadfast faith that these healing trees of human good, grown in this land of the free, may take root and blossom under all skies around this war-worn earth. Facing decisions of destiny, unite our hearts and minds, we beseech Thee, in a mighty purpose that we fail not man nor Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, bowing for a hallowed moment at this shrine of Thy grace, we acknowledge before Thee that our lives are so often as restless pools; we are disturbed by the social turmoil of our times, burdened by many anxieties, tempted to cynicism by human cruelty and perversity, often disheartened by human folly which seems to profit so little by bitter reaping. We would lay our problems and tasks before Thee, not to escape them but praying for Thy empowering; so that with strength and courage we may carry them with a new gallantry. In a divided and violent world, may we be among those whom the generations to come shall call blessed, because our record, even when rampant evil compels us to unsheath a clean sword, shall write our names among today's peacemakers. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, in this time of tumult, in this hour of danger, in this night of anxiety, give us, we beseech Thee, calmness of mind, consecration to duty, and a stern determination to finish the work which Thou hast given us to do.

As again there comes a supreme test of America's faith, when ruthless foes deny, defy, and would defile the very conceptions and aspirations which to us nurtured in liberty make life precious and sacred, may our Nation under God have a new birth of freedom.

May the crusaders in freedom's holy cause now marching and flying to do battle for a righteous peace be inspired by the assurance that—

> "Who fights for freedom goes with joyful tread.
> To meet the fires of hell against him hurled,
> And has for captain Him whose thorn-wreathed head,
> Smiles from the Cross upon a conquered world."

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, with our burdened lives tense and strained in a violent world we seek that peace which is the gift of Thy grace to all those who yield their will to Thy will, their minds to Thy truth, their hearts to Thy obedience. In these troubled days, confronted

with anxiety, tragedy, and death, all a part of the crimson cost of freedom, our hearts cry out for a meaning that is larger than the things we seek. Lest our feet slip we must be upheld by something that has an eternal faith behind it. Arising above the dividing prejudices of our embittered days, may we be hearers and doers of Thy Word and of Thy will, as "we lift our living Nation a single sword to Thee." Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1950

O GOD WHO ART THE HOPE of all the ends of the earth, amid the tragedy of a broken world, in deep humility of spirit, at noonday we ascend the altar stairs of this hallowed temple of our faith and hope. As for this dedicated moment we blot out all but Thee in a world of rising and falling empires, we crave the strengthening vista of Thine eternal kingdom whose sun never sets.

Grant unto us that greatness of spirit which shall match the vast patterns of this creative day. In these testing times, establish Thou our hearts, as in unity with other freedom-loving nations we battle not in enmity against men, but against the evil which degrades and enslaves them. Beyond the strategy of armed strife may we see clearly the depth and scope of this historic drama of the centuries, and may that vision turn its blood and sweat and tears into final glory for all mankind. We ask it in the ever blessed Name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1950

GOD OF ALL GRACE, Thou hast taught us that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength. In bitter and baffling days, when the earth is full of thunder and the seas are dark with wrath, give us a courage that never quails, a faith that never wavers, a hope that never dims. Make us the kind of persons Thou canst trust as the instruments and channels of Thy saving grace.

Help us to heal the open sores of the world which hate and selfishness and misunderstanding have inflicted on the bleeding body of our common humanity. Upon all who in these tragic days administer the stewardship of the Nation's strength and service, we crave the divine guidance. Grant us this day and in all the days of difficult decision to come, light to guide us, courage to support us, love to unite us. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. In all the perplexities of these confused times may we not lose our perspective. In these fateful days, lead us to right decisions and to that wisdom which is from above. As we remember here those of our own fellow countrymen who, in far places, are laying down their lives for the preservation of our heritage of freedom, save us from lowering the shield of national solidarity, just as the air is filled with the poisoned arrows of determined foes. In these days of crisis and alarm, help us to play the man and so help others to face with good cheer and courage whatever tomorrow may bring. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, amid the dismaying circumstances of these days, in the tension of the present and anxiety about the future, with deep concern about ourselves, our Nation, and our world, we turn to Thee who only art our strong tower and sure defense in the flood of mortal ills prevailing. In the agony of the world we hear Thy solemn summons to discipline, toil, and to ceaseless prayer, for we, too, are soldiers in the front line arrayed against the common foe. In Thy name we set up our banners. And though the air be tremulous with anguish and foreboding, yet will we not fear; though an host encamp against us in this will we be confident: Thou markest the devices of the wicked of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, without the inner strength which Thou alone canst give we are but fainting and frail human creatures, insufficient for these terrific days. As the chosen servants of the Commonwealth, pushed and pressed by grave questions and vexing problems so vitally affecting national welfare and world concord, we would bow, first of all, at this daily altar dedicated to the far look where before our eyes there tower those lofty and eternal verities that outlast the strident voices of any day. We cannot adequately face a

world such as that which we are called to serve and make any humble contribution to the healing of its tangled, tragic state unless our faith in Thy power to make even the wrath of men praise Thee and in the final victory of Thy purpose is kept untarnished. Give to us peace in our time, O God. To our stricken generation may there come peace with honor, with human dignity vindicated and social justice the canopy of all the nations. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1950

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, in the toils and troubles of time Thou hast set vistas of eternity in our hearts. Save us, we beseech Thee, from the supreme hypocrisy of making this holy moment of communion with the unseen and eternal but a conventional gesture of unfelt piety. At this high altar of the national life preserve us from praying with our lips only and not with our hearts and minds.

As we come in a high hour of human destiny solemnized by the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught, help us in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good will with a ruling passion to open the gates of a new life for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1950

O GOD OUR FATHER, in hours of confusion and anxiety we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee. In these hard bestead and dangerous days we would find peace in the midst of the storm and cleaning for the baseness of our own hearts. In this hour of the Nation's peril, sober us with a solemn sense of personal responsibility, with the realization that Thy call to every man is to contribute to the world's good his own life, strong and clean, honest, trustworthy, and serviceable.

As the bugles sound for the defense of precious things that are dearer than life, out of the depths we cry unto Thee, Thou Kindly Light. Our anguished hearts leap the seas to that far-away land where this very hour our own are contending so gallantly against

the pagan powers of darkness. We pray that a sense of Thy presence may gird them as today they face unnumbered foes and in the tomorrows, when the gathering might of freemen shall push back the flood of ruthless aggression. We ask this in the calming assurance that conquer we must,

"For our cause it is just;
And this be our motto:
In God is our trust."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, from the tumult of any angry world we seek the sanctuary of Thy presence, not that we may escape the world, but that we may turn to the perplexing maze of its tragic problems with strengthened spirits and quiet minds. In a shaken world we seek stability. In an anguished world we need inner peace. In a fearful world grant us confidence and courage.

We confess that in the conceit of our self-sufficiency too often we have turned with our burning thirsts to the broken cisterns of worldly wisdom and of our own sophisticated cleverness. Help us this noontide to turn our faces to Thy shining, O Thou Sun of our help and strength. If in this hour of a supreme test, as the free world battles against slavery, the way to victory is long and difficult and won at last with crimson cost, still keep our wills steadfast and our faith strong as was the faith of our fathers when they built this Nation of our love and prayer. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast so formed our being that all the highways of our hearts lead to Thy face and our deepest cravings are satisfied only in Thee. Turning aside for this hallowed moment from the violence and turbulence of human strife, we would hush both the words of the wise and the prattle of the foolish.

Strengthen us with Thy might that we may bear our full part in the decisive struggle that has shadowed these days. Facing, now, unfinished tasks calling for courage and sacrifice and wisdom, upon the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Congress,

and all public servants who, sharing the heavy load of these epochal days, shape our policy and guide our destiny, pour in double measure Thy enabling grace. Make our bodies Thy temple and our hearts Thine altar where the sacred fire ever burns. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1950

O THOU GOD OF ALL RACES AND NATIONS, who hast made of one blood all men to dwell upon the face of the earth, send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us, let them bring us to Thy holy hill.

We are grateful for the mutual feeling of amity and good will that is in our hearts as we gladly extend the hand of fellowship to representatives of a great eastern nation, as today we declare friendship in this Chamber where once was declared war. Cleanse us, we beseech Thee, from secret faults which may mar our public service, knowing that we cannot call mankind to put aside the weapons of carnage and destruction if our own lives are arsenals of hatred, of prejudice, and of a selfish passion to rule. Make us vividly conscious of some freedoms which we may not exercise, the freedom to be self-indulgent; the freedom to satisfy our greed and leave others in need; the freedom to be soft, cynical, and selfish; the freedom to criticize others without accepting change in ourselves. May Thy kingdom of love and righteousness come within us that we may contribute worthily to mankind's abiding peace. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1950

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, bewildered by the wild confusion of this clamorous world, we would wait in quietness that the roiled waters may become clear and our disturbed spirits tranquil pools of peace and prayer. Thou knowest our hearts. Thou seest, in spite of the worst things that we despise, that in our highest hours our deep desire is to be the true servants of Thy will in this troubled time. Faced by the practical problems which crowd our hours and press for solution, we would keep clear in our vision the eternal things amid the tempests of the temporal. In the unending struggle of truth and error, tyranny and liberty, give us the comforting assurance that we are not alone:

we do not stand alone, we do not fight alone, but that Thy increasing purpose is bound up with all this human struggle toward the shining goal of man's redemption from ignorance and suffering and chains. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the clamor of this vast and varied world save us from the supreme tragedy of missing a sense of Thy presence and the sound of Thy voice. We hear the low, sad music of humanity as in disrupted and invaded lands men mingle tears with tasks that seem hopeless and days and nights are filled with terror and horror; but we know that even in the world's woe and misery Thy voice is to us is calling. Midst all the busy shuttles of legislation as here is woven the fabric of law and order, shielding the life of our democracy in this day of crisis, may we not be so enmeshed in the immediate mechanics of our task as to lose sight of the total pattern shown in the mount of vision.

Seeing we spend our days as a tale that is told and that we pass this way but once, let us haste to do the best and to speak the best that is in us, lest ever the day has worn to noon we hear the one clear call, before our word is said and our deed is done. We ask it in the name of that One who crowded the briefest hours with the most sublime service. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the sweet refreshment of restoring sleep and the beckoning glory of this new day. In a turbulent time we would wait to put our hearts in tune with the infinite. Pausing at this daily altar we would be conscious of those voices that speak of high motives in a world ridden by low motives, of purity in an age blatant with uncleanness, of self-giving amid social systems which in their blindness still crucify their prophets. In such a world, where the lowest is so commonly the loudest, we need at the day's beginning a shrine of reverence to give the highest a chance at our lives. We cannot maintain the fine edge of our spiritual morale in the constant babel of the world's uproar. For our soul's sake, lead us in the paths of righteousness to quiet places of the spirit, to still

waters and green pastures, that our jaded and frayed spirits may be restored. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1950

ETERNAL FATHER, Thou who art the light behind life's shadows, the love behind life's sorrows, shine in morning splendor upon these darkened lives of ours. We would face the responsibilities committed to our hands in the sense of the eternal. Our strength in these trying and tragic days is unequal to our tasks. Our insights are not deep enough for the solving of the tangled tragedy of our ailing world. We cannot boast of our own might; our flesh is too fallible, our hearts are too evil, our wills are too wayward. Our weakness and failure cry out for inner sustenance. In these times of stress and strain that tempt to petulance, grant us the grace of patience, remembering always that courtesy is rarer than courage and that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

In all and through all that we say or do, make us the ministers of Thy healing, the channels of Thy grace, that to those who sit in darkness and desolation there may come beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD who art the living reality behind and beyond all life's fleeting shadows, in these dark days filled with alarms of war and of rumors of wars, as the forces of freedom mass their material might against rampant evil which seeks to enslave the world, may there shine in splendor before our eyes the spiritual objectives for which we fight. Keep us, we beseech Thee, vividly aware that the battle which rages can never be won by force of arms alone.

In this historic Chamber within whose walls in the vanished yesterdays the faith of democracy was proclaimed by eloquent voices, may we this day lift with confidence and gratitude the banners which proclaim our faith in the sovereignty of God and the dignity of man. We humbly pray that we may be commissioned to open the gates of a new life for the multitudes now enduring privation and exploitation, fear, and frustration. By Thy grace bring us at last to a nobler

and better tomorrow with freedom and equality and justice for all, where Thine shall be the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1950

FATHER OF ALL MEN, at noontide amidst the clamor of demanding national problems, we seek a quiet cloister of the soul where spirit with spirit may meet. In the midst of world conditions that baffle us, swift social currents which sweep away our strongest bulwarks, of evil forces let loose in the earth whose hideous cruelty stabs our anguished hearts, we confess that the world in which our lot is cast is too much for us. We must find a strength not our own or our feet will slip in this whelming flood. Forgive us that it has taken the dreadful threat of a global war with its terror and horror for us to recognize that all peoples must work out the common concerns of humanity together, or else go down together into the red burial of a final suicidal holocaust.

O Thou strong Father of the nations, draw all Thy great family together with an increasing sense of our common blood and destiny, that peace and justice, with equal worth and freedom to all, may come at last to a cleansed earth—the home of a holy brotherhood of peoples. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, whose paths are mercy and truth, before the white splendor of whose purity every vileness must shrink away, lift us above the immediate and set our lives in the wide horizons of abiding verities, with high resolves and selfless endeavors that take counsel not of our fears, but of our hopes, may we match these epic days with daring faith that will yet clear a highway across all the nations for the feet of our God.

Forbid that comfort and temporary safety should cushion us against a complete sharing in spirit and sacrifice of the grim test which is being demanded of those who fight against aggression in a far land. Make us, indeed, one with the valiant who in mud and fatigue, yea, in wounds and death this very day are standing between our loved homes and the war's desolation. Make us all worthy to wear the white plume of a great cause.

As a united nation and with united nations may we march forward with the triumphant faith that this is our Father's world, and though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1950

LOOK UPON US, OUR FATHER, with Thy favor as now, at noontide, we seek to realize Thy presence. May we learn as so many have done before us that the time of prayer is a time of renewal, when doubt is dispelled, hope revived, and faith quickened and confirmed. Hear us in our intercessions. Forgive us for our pessimism and despair, our impatient questioning of Thy goodness, our absorption in the routine of life, our self-love and self-pity, our readiness in taking offense and carelessness in causing it, our misuse of Thy gifts and deafness to Thy calls. Forgive us these and all our offenses. Use them to humble our pride and soften our hearts. And with true penitence grant us the desire for amendment that we may rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher and better things.

We pray, and would work as we pray, for good government and just laws, for sound education and a clean press, for sincerity and honesty in our relations with one another and with all nations, and, above all, for a spirit of service which will abolish pride of place and give equal opportunity to all. We ask it in the name of that One who is the servant of all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1950

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST, our hope for years to come, in a day of tribulation Thou hast called us to dedicate our brief and little lives to a vast and vital cause. Forbid that fronting such a day as this, freighted with sobering and solemn significance for the long years that stretch ahead for all Thy children everywhere, we should meet alpine issues with the molehills of small conceptions, petty patterns, and selfish designs. Help us so to speak and so to act in this day of destiny that tomorrow we may live unashamed with our memories.

Deliver us from the paralysis of pessimism and cynicism. Across the debris of ancient wrongs may our glad eyes see the glory of the

coming of the Lord, as exploitation and regimentation makes way for the dignity of man. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, here at this altar of devotion which our fathers builded and on which they cut deep with their founding faith the devout confession "In God we trust," we humbly bow with the deathless assurance that turns even tragedy into triumph: "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Facing the duties of demanding times in these mad and sad days, grant us sanity of mind and spirit and a glad hope which sees a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

"Lord, in this hour of tumult,
Lord, in this night of fears,
Keep open, O keep open,
Our eyes, our hearts, our ears.
Not blindly, nor in hatred,
Lord, let us do our part;
Keep open, O keep open, dear Lord,
Our eyes, our minds, our hearts."

Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1950

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who amidst the shifting sands of time standest sure, like men who turn from dusty toil to crystal streams of cleansing and refreshment, so we lift our soiled faces to Thee from the perplexities and imperfections which crowd the common days. As we pause in reverent silence, let this high place of governance become the audience chamber of Thy presence.

Because there is no final solution of the world's ills save as its springs from the hearts of men, we pray for ourselves. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, we come with grateful and penitent hearts to this wayside altar of prayer as together we face the demanding concerns of another week. In this historic Chamber, we thank Thee for memories of stalwart patriots who in turbulent days maintained their

souls in faith and came forth more than conquerors. Beget in us, their successors in the service of the commonwealth, the secret of their strength. And in these days, let us not be affrighted.

To our Nation and to ourselves, grant inner steadfastness that the rage of men may not shake. We pray for those institutions that seek the growth of character, for our families, our schools and our churches. Give us courage in the midst of fear, faith in the midst of doubt, love in the midst of hatred and hope in the midst of despair. Build Thou our interior strength, and grant that we may be among those who stand in the evil day and, having done all, still stand. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, whose power is unsearchable and whose judgments are a great deep, we would quiet our hearts in Thy presence; we would be still and know that Thou art God. We come as citizens of the world acknowledging our oneness with all humanity, humbling ourselves in penitence for our boastful pride, confessing our share in the evil that has brought confusion and ruin on the earth and praying for an ordered society of nations that shall give substance and hope to man's dream of brotherhood. O Thou who hast so made this world that whatsoever man sows he reaps, beget in us that holy fear of Thee which is the beginning of wisdom, that we may amend our ways and choose life, not death, the blessing, not the curse. So minister to our needs that as we take up our tasks we shall see life steadily and see it whole and discern in it Thy purpose for us and for our fellows. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, into the calm and confidence of Thy presence we would bring our drained and driven souls, as we bow at this little shrine of daily devotion, that the benediction of Thy peace may fall upon our restless lives.

In this day of destiny, O be swift our souls to answer Thee, be jubilant our feet. As soldiers of freedom, all serving in the ranks, let all that is low, abominable, selfish, vindictive, be put away from us; and may all things pertaining to Thy spirit live and grow in us.

Prepare our hearts to build again the waste places of the earth, as tyranny and hatred give way to brotherhood and reconciliation.

In the fight to make men free, open our eyes that we may see not only the encircling might of evil but also, on the hills about us, the chariots of God and the horsemen thereof. In the name of that One by whose redeeming grace we are made more than conquerors. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as for this hallowed moment amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this violent world, we wait for Thy still small voice, give us sensitive hearts to listen, teachable minds to learn, humble wills to obey. Here, today, let some revelation of Thy light fall upon our darkness, some guidance from Thy wisdom save us in our bewilderment, some power from Thy infinite resource strengthen us in our need. Along the road of this day and of every day, may we walk with Thee in the bright fellowship of those who fight the good fight and keep the faith. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1950

MERCIFUL FATHER, whose faithfulness is constant with all our fickleness, whose forgiveness outlasts all our transgressions against Thy holy love: We bemoan the delusions which have led us to mistake shadows for substance, we confess that by the opiate of our own achieving we were lulled into cushioned optimism. Now, with jarred and jolted minds, we see the whole circle of the world grown somber and terrible with the fires of battle and the rumors of war and the smoke of a judgment which engulfs us all.

In this day when Thou are sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat, give us that penitence for our own sins, that contempt for our own prejudices, that hatred for our own hate, that shall enable us to put on the whole armor of God as we fight against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, as at the beginning of another week we pause at the footstool of Thy grace, our hearts are both bowed with awe

and lifted up with hope. To a world where evil seems so rampant may our contribution be a life purged of self, of uncleanness and hatred, and a heart moved by compassion and concern for all mankind. Amid pollution, may our own motives be a part of the cleansing salt of the earth. In the darkness may our own spirits be as the candle of the Lord. May the great causes that will mold the future into the pattern of Thy desire and design, that will heal the world and rebuild it, that will create good will and usher in abiding peace, challenge the best that is in us, and gain the supreme allegiance of our love and labor as we serve our brief day.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1950

ETERNAL AND BLESSED GOD, in the midst of the toiling days when the fever and fret of perilous times take their toll of bodies and spirits, we are grateful for quiet arbors of peace where, at an altar of contrition, we may bow for Thy forgiveness and cleansing.

In an hour when such vast issues are at stake may those who here serve, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, rise to greatness of vision and soul as the anxious eyes of all the nations are upon this Chamber. We would join our petitions with unnumbered hosts today, under all skies, at the opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations, that in spite of all attempts to sabotage its mandates this world agency may be the instrument in Thy hand of averting war, of increasing understanding and of enlarging the field of peaceful cooperation among the nations. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1950

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN and in the earth and in the hearts of men, hallowed be Thy name. Without Thee, our striving would be losing. Our strength is inequal to our tasks. Undergird us, we beseech Thee, with Thine enabling might in the inner man.

May those who here serve the public weal be wise interpreters of the signs of the times, the brave spokesmen of Thy will and of Thy truth which sets men free from ancient wrongs. To us, in Thy providence, has been given a place of awesome responsibility in this supreme hour of the centuries. We would exercise that stewardship

of power with anxious care and deep humility. May we here consecrate ourselves anew to the fulfillment of the aims and dreams of a new world of justice and equality for which our sons are dying on the far battlefields of freedom. Send us forth to serve the present age sure that, though the earth were removed and the mountains cast into the midst of the sea, the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1950

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, cause us to know Thy loving kindness in the morning; for in Thee do we trust. Give us, we beseech Thee, that lowly and humble heart, emptied of presumptuous pride which is the only shrine where any altar pleasing to Thee can be raised. In these molten times, waiting to be molded into the pattern of Thy purpose, make plain to us Thy plan and Thy way. May our own spirits be quarries out of which stones for the new temple of humanity may be fashioned. Reveal unto us the means Thou wouldst have us use to establish justice and peace among men in all the earth. Make our America, we pray, more and more the hope of all who suffer and the dread of all aggressors who would enslave the human spirit. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1950

O THOU WHOSE APPROVAL WE SEEK above the hollow applause of men, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues that Thou might lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. Inspire and guide with the spirit of understanding these Thy servants, the few among the many, in a great and crucial day lifted by their fellows to high pedestals of power and influence. May their words and counsels so laden with possibilities to affect this stricken generation add to the world's store of good will and be for the healing of the nations. May the tyranny of expediency never bend our conscience to low aims which betray high principles.

Hear Thou our prayer as out of the depths we cry, bowing at the world's great altar stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1950

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name: Grant, we beseech Thee, to these chosen servants of the commonwealth clear vision, true insights, and pure hearts as, facing perplexing tasks and great responsibilities, they again ascend this holy hill of the Nation's life. In these fateful days, for whose decisions the future will judge us, by Thine enabling might may we maintain our integrity unsullied by animosities, prejudices, or personal ambitions, regarding always public office as a sacred trust.

Thou who through storm and night are still guiding and guarding, in these perilous times to Thee we cry: God save the state.

We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, who dost overarch our transiency with Thine everlastingness and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength; in a shaken world, amid the tensions of these terrific days, we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty. As we come, sobered by great issues and faced by great decisions, we have the awful consciousness that we are being died for in a bitter, frozen, alien land.

Give us that penitence for our own sins, our own betrayals of our threatened freedom, that shall enable us to put on the whole armor of God as we fight against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. In this anxious day may we find the calming assurance that—

> "Conquer, we must, for our cause it is just,
> While this is our motto, in God is our trust."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1950

OUR FATHER, in this troubled time when all mankind stands in the valley of decision, we turn to Thee with hearts that are heavy with

anxiety and with grief for the fallen, with minds that are clouded with perplexity and doubt, with spirits that are dismayed by the world's catastrophe. From the tumult of an unhappy world, where desolate lie many cities and multitudes weep in darkness with no consolation, we turn for a hallowed moment to this wayside shrine of Thy grace. Be to us, we pray Thee, not just the God of the altar of prayer but also the companioning presence of our daily lives, facing with us what we face, going with us where we go, sustaining, guiding, correcting, empowering, until our brief day's work is done and sunset comes to find us undishonored, undefeated, and unashamed. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, turning aside for this hallowed moment from the violence and turbulence of these embittered days, we would hush the words of the wise and the prattle of the foolish. Let not the state of the world, plunged now into such tragedy and confusion, dim our faith in the ultimate decencies.

May the costly testings of these days be to us but as the refiner's fire, consuming the dross, bringing out the pure gold of our democracy. Teach us Thy lessons, show us Thy way, convict us of our follies, sober us by Thy chastisements, and make us the instruments of a durable peace, just to all nations and hopeful for all men. In this hour of crisis and tension, we lift our living Nation a single sword to Thee. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1950

AT THIS ALTAR OF PRAYER which our fathers builded, we would be still and know that Thou art God. Forgive us that we talk so much and are silent so seldom; that we are in such constant motion and are so rarely still; that we depend so implicitly on the effectiveness of our own schemes and organization and so little on the power of Thy spirit.

Bewildered by the world's confusion and by the angry emotions of the time, we are tempted to lose certitude and stability and self-control. We would be true servants of Thy will in this troubled time.

Teach us this and every day so to wait upon Thee that we may renew our strength, mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment and light riseth up in darkness for the godly, grant us in all doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what Thou wouldst have us to do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices and that in Thy light we may see light and in Thy straight path may not stumble. Bowing in this storied Chamber we are conscious that we are heirs of great traditions. We are conscious, too, of a listening world, hoping in its agony that the horror of global war may be averted. In this mad and sad day filled with the angry accents of hate, we humbly bow at the beginning of this fateful week with the deathless assurance that can turn even seeming tragedy to triumph: "The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms." We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1950

ETERNAL GOD, who putteth down the mighty from their seat and exalteth the humble and the meek, Thy providence has led us to the very vestibule of destiny. Upon the President of the United States and his counselors, the Vice President and Members of the Congress, the leaders of our Armed Forces, and upon all trusted with authority on whose shoulders rest the heavy burdens and responsibilities for vital decisions so largely molding the future and, for weal or woe, affecting the lives of untold millions, we implore the wisdom which is from above. As in the name of the Lord our God we set up our banners, with closed ranks we march on toward stern and bitter days with the assurance that as we fight to make men free we march with Thee. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, hope of the souls that seek Thee, strength of the souls that find Thee, pushed and pressed by grave questions and vexing problems we would bow, first of all, at this daily altar dedi-

cated to the far look. Before our eyes may there tower those lofty and eternal verities that outlast the strident noises of any day.

The world about us is full of wild commotion, the clamor of the violent, the dark deeds of the ruthless and the agony of uncounted hosts of Thy children, haunted by nameless dread and ground in the dust of tyranny. We cannot adequately face such a world and make our humble contribution to the healing of its tangled, tragic state unless our faith in Thy power to make even the wrath of man praise Thee and in the ultimate victory of Thy purpose is kept untarnished.

"Lord, in this hour of tumult,
Lord, in this night of fears;
Keep open, O keep open,
Our eyes, our hearts, our ears."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1950

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee: Lest we lost our footing and our way in all the terror and tragedy of these testing days, we turn from the din of earth's shouting and tumult to this noontide altar of Thy grace. Through the tangled wilderness of human relations, show us the clear path of Thy will for our troubled day. In the dense darkness, black as the pit from pole to pole, be to us as a pillar of cloud and of fire. In the confusion of tongues and councils, endue us with the wisdom to rightly discern the signs of the times. This day, keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking guile, so that no careless word of ours may smite or hurt the spirit of another by our side. So may we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, our God. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, in times of stillness as we pause in the midst of rushing cares, we hear like bells at evening pealing the call of the better angels of our nature: We come seeking wide horizons around our noisy lives. Midst all the busy shuttles of legislation, as here is woven the fabric of law and order, shielding the life of our democracy

and of free peoples everywhere, may we not be so enmeshed in the immediate mechanics of our solemn task as to lose sight of the total pattern shown in the mount of vision. As we have undertaken on this continent a government of, by and for the people, may we not lack the spiritual quality and a constant sense of the divine sovereignty, without which no such government can long endure.

So make us faithful ministers of this stricken generation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast made all the highways of our hearts to lead to Thy face; Thou hast so formed our being that its deepest cravings are satisfied only in Thee. Help us this noontide to lift our faces to Thy radiance, O Thou sun of our help and strength.

Not only for our separate lives do we pray, but for the common interests and great spiritual traditions that bind us all together, for our Nation and its chosen leaders, and for the whole body of our citizens in this time of testing, we crave Thy guidance. In all our decisions set our souls on high things. In this dangerous yet glorious day, when we must choose for ourselves and our civilization life or death, the blessing or the curse, grant us the grace, in scorn of consequence, to set our wills on things worth living for and, if need be, worth dying for. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1950

O THOU SEEKING SHEPHERD OF OUR SOULS, from the arid wastes of our own foolish and perverse ways lead us in green pastures and besides still waters. Deepen the wells from which our spiritual strength is drawn. Incline our hearts to keep Thy law, and in that law may we meditate day and night. May the meditations and convictions of the heart be mirrored in wise legislation for the Nation.

In the heat and burden of our swiftly ebbing day may we be the agents of Thy beneficent will for mankind, with honor unsullied, playing our part in the life of our times. With full purpose of heart, wherever we are called to stand in this epic hour, may we strike our blow for the truth of God and the freedom of man. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1950

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whom we seek in vain without unless we first find Thee within: In the night of the world's darkness may the hush of Thy presence fall upon our souls, quiet our minds of their fretting fear, allay the unhappy irritations and resentments of our spirits, and hallow our lives through the grace of contrition and humility. We pray for ourselves the more earnestly because we are important to others.

At this altar of prayer we are thinking of our sons and daughters, many of them in far and perilous places. We are remembering all who rely upon our strength of character, our fidelity in service, and our power to endure, to be unafraid. We would not disappoint them. As the winds grow harder, may our roots strike deeper. Whatever outward things these dangerous days take from us, by Thy grace may they make us inwardly more adequate and wise, dependable and strong. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1950

O THOU IMMANUEL, God with us, again by Thy grace the journeying months have brought us near to the shining glory of the holy night. Amid the tumult and terror of man's inhumanity to man, we hear anew the tidings of the angels' song and the music that is not of earth.

May an understanding sympathy that knows no boundaries of border or race find lodging even in bitter hearts hardened by cynicism. May a longing for purity that sees God and the Godlike on the common earth be born in minds stained by unhallowed thoughts. Save us from a festivity that knows nothing of receptivity and from decoration that forgets dedication. May the holly of this joyous season enshrine the holy, and its crimson beads be but emblems of the myrrh of sacrifice, the gift of contrite hearts. We ask it in the name of Bethlehem's Babe. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the bitterness and ill will of these days, we thank Thee for the gentle, balmy climate of the Christmastide. May the cynicism which has tarnished our faith be dissolved by the

confident assurance that these clouds are lies and that the blue sky is the truth.

We would bow anew at the shrine of that One who didst come to a violent world and who is now remembered and adored, while the ruthless dictators are forgotten. In a world that is a neighborhood and must be made a brotherhood or perish, join us to that saving minority that across the boundaries of prejudice, intolerance, and hatred extends the dominion of understanding and good will. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1950

O THOU DESIRE OF NATIONS, as again our hearts are drawn by the lure of the manger, enable our spirits to kindle with the joy of simple shepherds long ago. As every hearth is aflame with the Christmas candles of faith and hope and love, we think tenderly and with pride of our Nation's youth, upon whose embattled loneliness the silent stars look down from alien skies. As in distant corners of the earth they keep their constant vigil for freedom's sake, our wistful prayers for them wing their way to Thee and bind them to us with a nearness which mocks the separating miles.

Hasten the day when the mighty melody above the little eastern town, "Peace to men of good will" shall be the divine harmony of all earth's myriad tongues. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1950

OUR FATHER GOD, who in times past, across yearning centuries, spoke to the fathers through the prophets and in the word made flesh hath spoken to us in that One whose name is the Prince of Peace, and upon whose shoulders the government of men must ultimately rest: We thank Thee that not on one wondrous night alone did a star of hope light the heavens, but that straight down the crowding years the starlit pathway leads, reminding our earth-filled eyes that the highest truth is born in lowly places, clad in humble garb. As the Christmas star rains its fire once more on an earth plowed with spite and hate, may we see in it a shining symbol that if we would find the truth and the life abundant we must follow our starry ideals, no matter over what burning sands or to what

lonely deserts they take our faltering feet. Following the gleam, bring us and all mankind, at last, to that glad day which all men of good will seek:

"When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendor fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing."

Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1950

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, we lift up our hearts as again o'er the earth's dark shadows the angels' song is heard, and over an earth grown old with its burden of care again the voice of the Christ Child rings out with its cheer, that mankind are the children of God.

May we see with new eyes, as Christmas comes to a world where ill will has wrought such horror, that that One whose coming breaks the ages in two is set for the falling and rising of nations; that He does not stay in the manger, He walks in our world of pretense and greed and self-seeking, and that where He goes the judgment of God goes with Him. Bending low through the gate of the child heart, may we find the simplicity, the freedom, and the truth that sword and tongue and pen can never give. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, as the gateway of an old year has noiselessly closed behind us with its final record of "what we have written, we have written," may its mistakes and failures be left in the merciful shadows of the past. With renewed powers and with renewed souls, returning to the high tasks of this national chamber of deliberation, to Thee we turn with a solemn sense of our own inadequacy. With the dim lamps of our own devising we cannot find a sure and clear path through the tangled maze of this stricken generation.

Be Thou the guardian and guide of the unbeaten way our feet must take. Above all, give us a consuming passion, not for our own way but for Thy holy will. May Thy kingdom come to us and through us. May no cherished resentments, no camouflaged selfishness, no ingrained prejudices choke and clog the channels of our public service. Enlarge our spirits to meet the stupendous dimensions of these epic days. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, whose approval we seek above the hollow applause of men, with the unwritten record of a new session open before us we would make the first entry "In the beginning God," as with contrite hearts we offer the prayer that all the deliberations of this historic Chamber may be begun, continued and ended in Thee. In a world where the very foundations seem to be shaken and the mad fury of battle this very day assails our senses and tears our hearts, we cherish this hushed and hallowed moment which so long ago the founding fathers set apart as an altar of prayer at the day's beginning.

Grant that those who by the people's choice have been called to high places of state in this fateful day, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, assuming responsibilities as heavy as the servants of the Commonwealth have ever borne, may be filled with Thy spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of Thee. On this significant day of beginnings like the sound of a great amen may there ascend from every Member of this legislative body, upon which are the eyes of the world, the solemn prayer: "So help me, God!" We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, as we rejoice at the gift of another day may its hours be made luminous by Thy presence, who art the light of all our seeing. In everything we are called to do may we be at our best, and so be worthy of our high calling.

Grant us the spirit of kindliness, of thoughtfulness, and of fair play in all our relationships. Deliver us from all malice and contempt, lest we hurt others and sour our own souls. May the tyranny of partisanship and expediency never bend our conscience to low aims which betray high principles.

Hear Thou our prayer as out of the depths we cry as we climb the world's great altar stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, who in the toils and troubles of time has set vistas of eternity in our hearts, save us from the supreme hypocrisy of making this holy moment of communion with the unseen and eternal but a conventional gesture of unfelt piety. At this high altar of the national life, preserve us from praying with our lips only, and not with our hearts and minds. As with anxious hearts, together with a listening world, we hear this day a diagnosis of the state of the Union, help us to face with utter honesty the state of our own inner lives. May we be deeply concerned that our personal attitudes shall be a part of the answer, and not a part of the problem of our social order.

As we come in a high hour of human destiny, solemnized by the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught, help us in these testing days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good will, determined to open the gates of a new life for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee that Thou hast implanted within us the breath of a divine life; that there is an infinite in us which, with all our cunning, we cannot quite conceal beneath the finite; that by the very constitution of our nature, we hunger and thirst after Thee. Forgive us that knowing this we have sought to satisfy the deepest cravings of our spirits with the things of time and sense.

Grant us some part, we beseech Thee, in the fulfillment of Thy mighty purpose for the world. Let Thy hand be laid in healing upon our turbulent day. Show us where we have gone wrong. Enlarge the areas of our sympathy for all mankind. Stir up our wills and kindle our imaginations that we may find the way to a just and ordered society where all will gain the due reward of their labor and where men will serve Thee and one another in harmony and good will. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1951

OUR FATHER, who revealest Thyself in all that is pure and true and lovely, we beseech Thee to help us make our hearts and minds the fitting audience chambers for Thy presence. Help us in all things to be masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of all. In meeting grave issues growing out of what is wrong with the world, reveal to us what is wrong with ourselves. Make us vividly conscious that we cannot meet and conquer hatred and rampant selfish aggression abroad with material weapons only; but that our own hearts must be the homes of love and purity and honesty if we are to be Thy instruments for the transforming of the world. In these times of tension and strain, keep us calm in temper, clear in mind, sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, meanness, or even treachery. In these crucial and creative days, enable Thy servants here, in posts of high public office, to perform faithfully and well what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with Thee, our God. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world filled with the clamor of those who trust in violence and with the boasting of those who reckon not with the ultimate supremacy of forces unseen and eternal, save us from being victims of the apparent and the transient. Help us to command this new day, meeting its joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its doubts with faith no darkness can extinguish. Direct our steps, guard us from error, deliver us from all evil. Help us to sit where others sit, seeing life's tangled skein through the eyes of those less fortunate than ourselves. And in dark and dangerous days may we still be able to utter the glad and grateful confidence: "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident: The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, clouds and darkness are around Thee, yet righteousness and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne which is established forever upon the moral pillars of the world. In times heavy with crisis Thou hast called us to play our part in one of the creative hours in human history.

In the midst of the startling changes of our day, may we be delivered from the paralysis of pessimism and cynicism. We thank Thee that in the name of a free people ours is now the high privilege of signing anew, with our own sacrifice, the immortal declaration, crimsoned with the devotion of the founding fathers: "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

In this age on ages telling, may we fail not man nor Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whom we seek in vain without unless we first find Thee within, at this noontide altar of prayer may the hush of Thy presence fall upon our souls. Quiet our minds of their fretting, allay the unhappy irritations and resentments of our spirits, and hallow our lives with the grace of contrition and humility. Strengthen our hearts and minds that we may worthily measure up to the role Thou hast called us to play in these solemn days.

We cry, O Lord, in the night of the world's darkness that Thy light may rise in glory for all the earth. By the sorrows of the uprooted refugees, by the long agony of battlefield and hospital, by the woes of mothers, the needs of desolate children, and the starvation of millions, we pray that this archenemy of man, this most blasphemous denier of all that is good and just, the curse of aggressive war, may be driven from the earth. As those who work for reconciliation and brotherhood, give us a place among the peacemakers of this stricken generation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1951

O MERCIFUL GOD whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever, we beseech Thee to grant unto us, who in the morning seek

Thy face, the benediction which a sense of Thy presence lends to each new day. Unite our hearts and minds to bear the burdens that are laid upon us. Grant us this day the grace to live on the altitudes of our aspirations. As servants of Thine and of the Nation and of the peoples of this shattered earth, stricken, bleeding, starving, save us from false choices and guide our hands and minds to heal and bind and build and bless. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, Father of our spirits, whose power is unsearchable and whose judgments are a great deep, at the beginning of the day we would quiet our hearts in Thy presence. We would be still and know that Thou art God. As amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this violent world we wait for Thy still small voice, give us sensitive hearts to listen, teachable minds to learn, humble wills to obey. Let some revelation of Thy light fall on our darkness, some guidance from Thy wisdom save us from our bewilderment, some power from Thine infinite resource strengthen us in our need.

We acknowledge our oneness with all humanity. Humbling ourselves in penitence for our boasted pride, confessing our share in the evil that has brought confusion and ruin on the earth and praying for an ordered society of nations that shall give substance and hope to man's dream of brotherhood, we ask in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, into the calm and confidence of Thy presence we would bring our drained and driven souls that the benediction of Thy peace may fall upon our restless lives. May this little shrine of daily devotion, built by our fathers on the high hill of the Nation, open for us vistas of green pastures and still waters where our jaded souls may be restored.

In a difficult and desperate era, be Thou our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, as patiently and obediently we follow the kindly light. May we close our national ranks in a new unity, as deadly peril threatens the birthright of our liberties. Save us from living on a small scale in a great day. In this hour of destiny, O be

swift our souls to answer Thee, be jubilant our feet. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we come asking that Thou wilt refresh our souls and restore our faith as in all the bewilderment of the world's fiery strife our burdened hearts seek the quiet sanctuary of Thy healing presence. We would face the responsibilities committed to our hands in the daily sense of the eternal. Our insights are not deep enough for the solving of the tangled tragedy of our ailing world. In tense times that tempt to petulance, grant us the grace of patience, remembering always that courtesy is rarer than courage and that a soft answer turneth away wrath. Save us from being little men in a great day and from the futile endeavor to match the expanding pattern of a new world being born in travail with the outworn conceptions of a world that is dead.

Make this ancient Chamber of our national life a place of vision, a lighthouse of hope above the raging floods of human disaster and distress. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1951

OUR FATHERS' GOD, author of liberty, out of the heroic yesterdays when founding fathers, pledging their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, molded the Union, comes an arresting voice on this day of sacramental remembrance: "Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us; for the Lord manifested in them great glory, even His mighty power from the beginning."

We give Thee thanks for the life and service and the unsullied character of that one whom we reverently call the Father of his Country. In these new days that test our souls and our faith, we would clearly see that stately figure, fatherly, yet stern, who, having won all, renounced all. As in the deep need of our Nation's cause we lift our hearts to Thee especially would we remember that one who, in the darkness and the doubt of an hour when all the lamps seemed to have gone out, gained strength and solace for himself and for his tattered, suffering troops, when alone and apart he found an altar for bended knee on the hard and frozen ground. May we

honor him best by being worthy of the favor of his God and our God, who hath made and preserved us a Nation. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the sweet refreshment of sleep restoring the frayed edges of care and for the beckoning glory and the fresh vigor of the new day and a new week. Lead us this day in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. Enable us to fill swift hours with mighty deeds, to bear the fret of care, the sting of criticism, the drudgery of unapplauded toil; to think clearly, to act kindly, to play manfully our part in the life of our time, to strike our blow for freedom and, keeping to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, to leave the world the better for our sojourn in it. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1951

O THOU, FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, who hearest prayer, breathe upon us now, we beseech Thee, the benediction of Thy holy calm. Soothe the anxieties of our baffled minds so that with the shield of Thy peace and the sword of Thy truth we may face whatever tests this day may bring, free and fearless. Kindle on the altar of our hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world that, in its white heat, shall consume every grosser passion. Heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might as we stand at this crossroads of history. Override the errors of our faulty judgments.

So may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done in all the earth. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1951

O LORD, in the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up: May the hush of Thy presence move us in this hallowed moment to adoration, and may all other voices be stilled that Thine may be heard.

To a world where evil seems so rampant may our contribution be a life purged of self, of impurity and hatred, moved by compassion and by concern for all mankind. Amid pollution may our own motives be a part of the salt of the earth. In the encircling gloom may

our spirits be as the candle of the Lord. May the great causes that will mold the future into the pattern of Thy desire and design, that will heal the world and rebuild it, challenge the best that is in us, as we serve our little day, and gain the supreme allegiance of our love and labor. We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, in hours of exhausting strain which drain away our strength, we give Thee thanks for the daily pause at this wayside well of peace and prayer. The fierce storms sweeping across our world leave us weary with watching. These testing times seek out our every weakness. While the tempest still is high, we turn to the infinite calm of Thy changeless love, that we may find inner sustenance, wells of living water springing up, courage in battling for truth, and serenity under strain.

Give us a readiness for the severe disciplines of self-control, so that our minds and bodies may be the channels for kindling thoughts and soaring ideals and power to match great needs with great deeds. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1951

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee Thou hast planted within us; that Thou hast set eternity within our hearts. Open our eyes to see Thee, not out on the rim of the universe, on some distant star, but warm, sweet, tender, even yet, a present help; in human love that hallows our own lives, a love which, at its best, bears witness to Thee and alone can heal the hurt of the world.

Conscious of Thy overshadowing presence we pray for fidelity; not to shirk the issues of these momentous days. Committing our way unto Thee who knowest the path we take, bring us forth as gold tried in fire. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou only art eternal and changeless: Like infants, with no language but a cry, we are but pilgrims of the night;

beneath our uncertain feet is sinking sand, around us constant change and in all things, including our mortal life, the seeds of decay sprout death. With hurrying pace, swift to its close ebbs out life's little day. But at the altar of prayer faith flings open an escape into eternity, into a life flooded with meaning and in which earthly tasks are sanctified and glorified.

As we look unto Thee who art our life and our light, we know that the encircling gloom is not our home. Therefore, will we not fear though the earth do change and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas; though the nations rage and the kingdoms do move: The God of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge. In this faith, tune our hearts this day to the infinite, that all perplexed meanings may be linked into one perfect peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, to whom there is no far or near, no great or small, Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of these pilgrim years, through sunny hours and through gloomy shades; often we had fainted unless we had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living and the signs of Thy final mastery shaping human events in spite of the wrath and the mistakes of willful men. Strong Deliverer, be Thou still our strength and shield in these turbulent days. We beseech Thee, give understanding, humility, and charity to them who in Thy name and for the Nation's sake are entrusted in this Chamber with the power of governance. In such a day, as stewards of the world's future, give them, O Lord, a steady faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and a will to labor valiantly for the things for which we pray. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, who hast ordained that in trial we shall find our triumph and who art our hope and strength: We turn from the dust and drudgery of draining toil to the crystal waters of Thy restoring grace. Out of the night that covers us we come groping up altar stairs to the light that never fails. For our day, with all its sinister renewal of injustice, misery, and ruthless regimentation that

robs men of their freedom, make us children of the light, harbingers of the day. Thou seest us plunged into the most fateful struggle of human history: To those called to steer the ship of state in mountainous seas, give Thy wisdom and strength of mind and heart to be steadfast for the things that belong to our peace and our salvation.

With the rapture of high resolve, being done with lesser things, gird us with might to clear across the ravaged earth a highway for the feet of our God whose kingdom has no frontiers. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, help of the ages past, hope for the years to come: In the secret place of the Most High, in the hush of this hallowed moment closing the door upon the outer world, with its tumultuous and unpredictable events, in the white light of Thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are, petty and proud creatures who seek their own wills and whims, in spite of the polished courtesies and noble professions with which we come to Thee.

Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts from all defiling foulness and from the secret sin of pretense. Touch our lips with live coals from Thy altar of devotion. Fit us to faithfully protect the Republic from outward aggression and from inner selfishness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name.

With shocked hearts we come with sorrow to this session mourning the tragic ending of the useful life of an honored Member* of this body, who only yesterday occupied his seat in this Chamber.

For the high caliber of the public service he rendered, for the unsullied integrity of his official and private life, for his sterling qualities of character, for the jovial disposition which endeared him to all associated with him as he lived in his house by the side of the road and was a friend to man, we thank Thee, Master of all good workmen. May the benedictions of Thy sustaining grace rest upon his dear ones so sorely bereaved.

Realizing that in the midst of life we are in death, may we each face our tasks with the deep solemnity of those who know not what a day may bring forth. Amen.

*Senator Virgil Chapman, of Kentucky.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast ordained that in the leadership of the nations the care of the many must ever rest upon the shoulders of the few. We beseech Thee, give understanding, humility, and charity to them who in Thy name and for the Nation's sake are entrusted, in this Chamber, with the power of governance. In this troubled and uncertain day when the seamless robe of a common humanity is rent by inner strife and outward fears and foes, teach us to be ministers of reconciliation and to be anxious for nothing but to do our best. And when, day by day, we have done faithfully the work Thou givest us to do, in quietness and in confidence may we leave the result to Thy unerring judgment. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own understanding we would lift the difficult decisions of the public service into Thy holy light. In the brooding silence of this still moment may the open windows of faith flood our darkness with the radiance of the eternal, that in Thy sunshine's blaze our day may brighter, fairer be.

We give Thee thanks for all interpreters of Thy mind who, with brush or pen or uttered word, bring even one more syllable of reality, one more gleam of the truth which makes men free. Clothe our failing flesh with Thy renewing grace as now we bring our incompleteness to Thy completeness. Grant us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious yet demanding day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching on. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, author of liberty, who hath made and preserved us a nation: May there be forever cherished in this Chamber, as a shrine of freedom, those spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and peace out of strife. May we face these baffling days with the glad assurance that no weapon that has been formed can prevail against Thy eternal purpose.

From the schemes of selfish and cruel men who would enslave human spirits and bodies, we turn sure and content to the resistless force that will at last burn away every barrier to brotherhood and to Thee, our God, who will not fail nor be discouraged until on the redeeming cross deep-rooted in Thine own heart Thou dost lift a lost world to the radiance of Thy love and of Thy light. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom no secrets are hid, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in the hearts of all men the true love of peace, peace with justice and which takes into consideration the inherent dignity of every child of Thine. And guide with Thy pure wisdom those who here take counsel for the Nation and for the nations of the earth, that in the might of human brotherhood Thy kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the transforming knowledge of Thy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1951

O GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we would yield our flickering torch to the flame of Thy redeeming love. Thou hast taught us that our lives are made to be the temples of Thy holy presence. Against the defilement by impious hands of that sacred inner shrine, we pledge a sacrifice from which no Gethsemane or Calvary can hold us back.

Forbid that any actions or attitudes of ours should ever deny or betray the white principles for which on land and sea, under alien skies, so many of our sons in arms are paying the last full measure of devotion. Along the road of this day and of every day may we walk with Thee in the bright fellowship of those who seek a just and righteous peace, and who, for the attainment of that golden goal, will fight the good fight and keep the faith. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom there is no shadow that is caused by turning, conscious that in this rough and rushing world there is

upon us constantly the hot breath of malice and envy, of evil tempers and thoughts, in this quiet moment of devotion breathe on us, breath of God, fanning to flame our smoldering faith that the dross which weights the wings of our spirits may be consumed. As those into whose unworthy hands has been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, may the thoughts of our minds and the sympathies of our hearts, the words of our lips and the decisions of our deliberations be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, out of our deep need we come, painfully conscious of our limitations lifting lame hands of prayer to Thee. We bow at the beginning of another week with strength which has been sapped, with patience strained, with ideals tarnished by the acids of cynicism, with poise shattered by the tensions of these times.

We beseech Thee to stir up in the whole body of the people an adventurous willingness, even as they pour out the crimson cost of defense, so also, for international good will, to dare bravely; that on the ruins of man's hate we may build a new and fairer home for humanity, worthy to house all the children of Thy love and care, as glorious from the heavens above shall come the city of our God. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1951

FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, Thou hast ordained that not in cushioned seats of safety, but in danger and stern conflict, shall we find our strength and our triumph. Beneath all diversities of gifts and of thought we seek the common unity which makes us one. Away from all diversive forces about us, which tear and separate and push apart, we would kneel in penitence at the altar of the one God whose love shed abroad in our hearts alone can burn all barriers away. With obedient hearts may we listen to that One who with steadfast face found His song in sacrifice and His crown in a cross. Give us a part in hastening the glad time when mercy and truth shall be blended into divine harmony and righteousness and peace

shall kiss each other, in a world where brotherhood has no frontiers. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in whose love and wisdom lies all our hope: We thank Thee for life's loveliness that cannot be shattered nor shaken by all the world's hate, nor by wars or rumors of wars. We are grateful for friendships which sanctify, for music which gives wings to our jaded spirits, for truth which breaks the shackles of the mind, and for shining human character where Thou dost show sufficient of Thy light for us in the dark to rise by. Immersed in this world of facts and figures, daily facing demanding duties, we pause to acknowledge that we cannot live by bread alone, nor in the flesh alone; that our spirits must have an escape into that higher realm measured not by clocks nor calendars.

Make real to us that kingdom within whose radiant realities are its faith, its ideals, its visions of beauty, and its aspiration that lay hold of God and goodness. Help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1951

ETERNAL GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MEN, who bringeth forth righteousness as the light and judgment as the noonday, our souls wait upon Thee; our expectation is from Thee. In all the fiery tests of these critical days which are setting the shape of things to come, deepen the wells from which we draw our power to endure.

In this Holy Week, bowing at this altar of prayer, steady us with the realization that back of all the dark tragedy of these troubled days there is a permanent good in which we may believe and to which we must be loyal if life is to be saved from frustration at last.

> "O Thou whose dreams enthrall the heart, ride on!
> Ride on till tyranny and greed are evermore undone.
> In mart and court and parliament the common good increase
> Till men at last shall ring the bells of brotherhood and peace."

We ask it in the blessed name of that One who hath swallowed up death in victory. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, fountain of all life, source of all blessing, Thou who art behind the shadows and in the shadows and whose heart of love pulses beyond the stars: At this noontide altar of a nation's faith we seek Thy guidance and a sense of Thy nearness. Facing the cares of today and the burdens of tomorrow we are bewildered by the perplexity and the confusion of the world.

In such an hour, when appalling human needs make this a time for greatness, save us from the devices and the duplicity of cowardly compromise, as entrenched evil lies in wait to silence our consciences. Deliver us from the sophistries of the cynical and the inclinations of our own hearts to self-deceit. Grant that our hearts may be shrines of prayer, our homes nurseries of virtue, our personalities centers of contagious good will, and our Nation an inspiring bulwark for the oppressed and a flaming beacon of hope whose beams shall battle the darkness in all the world. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1951

O GOD, infinite in mercy, love, and power, we come knowing that apart from Thee all is vanity, that all other cisterns are empty and broken and in Thee alone is the fountain of life. From the fret and fever of the vexed world's problems, from all thought of the praise or blame of men, from discordant noises and confused conceptions which beat upon our senses, at noontide we would follow the path to the quietness of Thy presence.

Touch every privilege we enjoy with the halo of sharing, we beseech Thee; melt it into unselfishness, translate it into service; let it not be poisoned by pride. Make every personal and national blessing a transparent window in the temple of service, so that Thy spirit can shine through it in glory for human good. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, trusting only in Thy mercy do we seek Thy face in this hallowed moment of devotion. We come with burdens on our minds and hearts, for our Nation and the world. With deep

anxiety concerning the future our children will inherit from our hands, yet we live in the faith that Thy truth is marching on, even in the perplexites of these terrific days.

We thank Thee for every word of truth which has been spoken around the wide world, for all the right which the human conscience has perceived and woven into the social fabric. Make us ministers of that love which will not halt its growing sway until it joins all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples into one great fraternity, in which Thy kingdom shall come and Thy will be done. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, at this our morning shrine of prayer, turning from all the turmoil and chaos without, we would look within, at our own lives, knowing that out of the heart are the issues of life.

We come to this session with a vivid sense that the cause of freedom is one around the whole wide world. Thou knowest that we think with gratitude of the great nation whose blood has mingled with ours on battlefields of freedom and whose President comes to us today as the seal of our common unity, even as Lafayette symbolized the aid of France in the testing days when our Nation was born. Together, in these new times that try our souls, when our common freedom is threatened by sinister forces, strengthen the hands of our two nations to hold aloft the flaming torch of liberty enlightening the world, defending the things more precious than life itself, we raise the ancient battle cry: "Man is man, and who is more?" In the name of that One whose truth alone makes men free. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee for this shrine of the Nation's faith where, facing vast human issues committed to our hands, relying on a strength and a wisdom not our own, we come humbly to confess: In God we trust. In all the perplexities of these confused days may we not lose our perspective; may we prove worthy of the high trusteeship of power and of opportunity which Thou hast committed to us.

May this Nation under God be purged of its own failures to practice genuine democracy. Make a chastened and disciplined America

the pioneer of a better world for ourselves and for all peoples, a world of justice and righteousness, of security and freedom and with ample space for the development of personality. May our starry banner be ever the symbol of the beatitude of patriotism pure and undefiled: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." In the Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world so filled with terror and horror, leaving a ghastly harvest of broken bodies, ravaged lands, ruined temples: We thank Thee for all the gentle and healing ministries which soothe our fear-haunted, troubled souls. We are grateful for the gladness of the morning, the freedom of the wind, the music of the rain, the joy of the sunshine, the deep calm of the night; for trees and flowers, for birds and clouds and sky, for the tender ministries of human love, for the unselfishness of parents, the confidence of little children, the patience of teachers, and the loyalty of friends.

Drawing refreshment from vineyards we did not plant, drinking at cisterns we did not dig, knowing the very freedoms for which we fight have been bought with a price, may we be eager in the supreme test of this day of destiny to make our lives part payment on an unpayable debt. So may our imperfect service express something of Thee and for Thee before life's little day ebbs out and the night comes down and our work is done. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Grant us the grace to be valiant pilgrims on life's dusty and dreary way. Deliver us from unlovely self-conceit, so that we may not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. Make us forgiving and forbearing. Teach us to toil and ask not for reward save that of knowing we do the things that please Thee.

As we turn to our waiting tasks, may the love of friends, the confidence of those who believe in us, the spur of conscience and the commanding call of goodness be the guiding stars to lead us on. Strengthen our will to choose always that which is morally excellent,

rather than that which is politically expedient. So that, having received the inheritance of heroic yesterdays, we may transmit it unsullied and unwasted to a brighter tomorrow. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1951

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven and in the earth, in the resurrection glory of the world about us, heaven and earth are full of Thee; common bushes are on fire with God and the time for the singing of birds has come. May a spiritual springtime make our own hearts as the garden of the Lord. There may the fair flowers of humility and charity appear; there may desert ground blossom as the rose and barren branches be clothed upon with the beauty of holiness. May our own attitudes contribute to the warmth of that climate of friendship which shall at last color every landscape with its magic charm and spread its divine tints under all skies across all the areas of human life. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, who putteth down the mighty from their seat and exalteth the humble and the meek: Thou hast set eternity in our hearts. From the shams and shadows of these perplexing days we turn unfilled to Thee, praying for strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight for our times, and vision which sets its eyes on far horizons.

In all the fever and fret of a confused day may we not forget that he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his own heart better than he that taketh a city. Save us from lowering the shield of national unity and solidarity in a perilous hour, when the poisonous arrows of tyranny are being aimed by determined foes at the very life of this dear land of our hope and prayer. Teach us so to wait upon Thee that we may renew our strength, mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, in knowledge of whom standeth our life: From the tumult of an angry world we seek the sanctuary of Thy presence, not that we may escape from the world, but that we may turn to the perplexing maze of its tragic problems, with strong spirits and quiet minds.

Help us to recognize truth and to welcome revelation from whatever quarter they arise. Strip us of our boastful illusions. Open our eyes to the evils among us that we condemn in others. As the winds blow harder may our roots strike deeper. Whatever outward things these dangerous days take from us, by Thy grace may they make us inwardly more adequate and wise, dependable and strong. May we so guard the treasures of our freedom, bought with a great cost, that we will not allow the fight for freedom to destroy the freedom for which we fight, nor the inner national unity with which we must face the tyrants who seek our destruction. Fit us to faithfully protect the Republic from outward aggression and from inner selfishness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1951

GOD, OUR FATHER, whom we seek in all our need and through all the mystery and perplexity of life; without whom we cannot live bravely or well: Show us Thy will in all the maze of paths our uncertain feet may take. As now in prayer we draw near to Thee, do Thou graciously draw near unto us until we become more sure of Thee than of midday light. Come to us in the common life that entangles us, meet us in the thorny questions which confront us, make Thy highways through the encircling gloom that surrounds us; breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm.

Open our ears and our hearts this day to hear and heed Thy ancient covenant, which is to all generations: "If My people shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land." Fulfilling these conditions may Thy

redeeming power surge through our individual lives and the life of our Nation. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1951

O THOU KINDLY LIGHT, as we come groping our way through a maze of life and death, we thank Thee for the durable verities which are above controversy and debate. As on this day we honor a living captain who has fought a good fight and has laid the foundations of freedom in a conquered land, Thou knowest that our welcome home is tinged with grief and sorrow at the passing from this earthly stage of one who with integrity and ability stood for so many years in this Chamber, as he served his State, his Nation, and the world.

We thank Thee that in the gathering storm of aggression which now rages, Thy servant, Arthur H. Vandenberg, in a time that called for greatness, grew into greatness; and that, as he sat in the seat now vacant and stood in this National Council which will see his face no more, it was given him to discern clearly and to speak boldly regarding the policies which belong to our peace. We give Thee thanks that in the crowning years of his career he stood so high on a pedestal of vision that all partisanship was dwarfed, as he became a valiant knight fighting for imperiled freedom in all the world. With a sense of poignant loss we thank Thee that such have been, tho' they are here no more: In the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, whose truest words to us are heard in the silences of the soul: Grant Thy servants, in the public ministry of this chamber of debate and decision, quiet hearts and open minds. May the fret and fever of our own spirits not add to the confusion of a confused age, instead of helping and healing. Bewildered by the world's upheaval we lose certitude and stability and self-control; we are tempted to yield to the angry emotions of the time.

Forgive the petulance of our impatience, our hasty judgments, and our childish outbursts. Give us a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe. Be Thou the shining presence in every fear-shadowed area of life. Take to Thyself those who in the fiery hurri-

cane of battle under eastern skies are giving their lives that freedom may live. Hasten the day when righteousness shall be triumphant and peace shall bless our land and every land. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, author of liberty, grant us the lowly heart which is the only temple that can contain the infinite. Facing grave questions and perplexing problems so vitally affecting national welfare and world concord, we would begin the day by bowing in reverence, acknowledging Thee in whom we live and move and have our being. We come conscious of those lofty and eternal verities that outlast the strident noises of any day.

Strengthen us to make our utmost contribution to the healing of the tangled tragedy of our troubled world. To our stricken generation may there come peace with honor, with human dignity vindicated, and social justice the canopy of all the nations of the earth: For Thine is the kingdom to which the future belongs, and the power and the glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1951

GOD OF ALL MERCY, may we be vividly conscious that we need turn not back to bygone centuries to hear Thy voice, as if Thou dost speak no longer to us now. Forgive us that we talk so much and are silent so seldom, that we are in such constant motion and are so rarely still; that we depend so implicitly on the effectiveness of our organizations and our own contriving, and so little on the power of Thy spirit.

O God, who has called our Nation to a position of trust and responsibility throughout the world, we confess before Thee with shame all that has been evil in our history and all the denials, the corruption and the dishonesty that even now make us unworthy to be called a Christian people. Take from us, we beseech Thee, all pride, greed, and injustice; and grant to us the spirit of unselfish service which alone can make us free. Make pure our motives, ridding us as a nation of all base desire for self-advantage which does not include the weal of all lands. So hearing and heeding

the voice divine, may our compassion help to heal the open sores of the world as we serve the present age. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, Father of our spirits whose power is unsearchable, whose judgments are a great deep: We quiet our feverish hearts in Thy presence. We would be still and know that Thou art God. As amid the earthquake, wind and fire of this violent world we wait at the week's beginning for Thy still small voice, give us sensitive ears to listen, teachable minds to learn, humble wills to obey.

Here, today, in this Chamber of national deliberation let some revelation of Thy light fall on our darkness, some guidance from Thy wisdom save us in our bewilderment, some power from Thine infinite resource strengthen us in our need. Acknowledging our oneness with all humanity we come as patriots, believing that our America has come to the kingdom for such a time as this. Our Nation's welfare, dear to us, grateful for its best traditions, anxious for its present perilous state, prayerful for its sons who this very hour are fighting in Liberty's cause, we come crying for wisdom in our national leaders, that we may contribute worthily to mankind's abiding peace. We ask it in that name which is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1951

O THOU GOD OF LIFE AND LIGHT, our glad hearts thrill at the risen glory of the awakening earth robed in the blooming garb of spring. We are grateful for the mystic wonder of this yearly miracle, as nature climbs to a soul in leaf and flower and the earth showeth Thy handiwork. Together we bow in the hush and joy of Thy presence, pausing in the morning tasks to listen for Thy call sounding in our ears. In the stillness, wilt Thou whisper some word of insight within our souls.

Have mercy upon us for our frantic boasts, our foolish words, and our perverse ways. Save us from small and selfish living in so great a day. In the vision splendid of divine fatherhood and of human brotherhood which knows no frontiers, may we dream our dreams, mold our lives, enact our laws, build our Nation and plan our world,

until this shadowed earth which is our home rolls out of the darkness into light, and it is daybreak everywhere. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1951

O GOD, whose love is unfailing and whose mercies are new every morning: At this wayside shrine of prayer, hallowed across the long years, we lift up our souls unto Thee:

"We come unto our fathers' God,
Their rock is our salvation;
The eternal arms, their dear abode,
We make our habitation.
We seek Thee as Thy saints have sought
In every generation."

May our adoration and gratitude be so united with our sense of duty and devotion that we may be Thy servants in this desperate time. Forgive us, we beseech Thee, that so often we have fallen short of the mark of our high calling. We have lived in this world and have forgotten that it is Thine, we have received Thy gifts and ignored the giver. Too often we have been selfish and self-centered; have made life minister to our own ends and purposes; have forgotten that those who seek to save their life lose it, while those who surrender it in service and sacrifice find life abundant. Minister to our inward needs this day, we beseech Thee. Grant us faith to crowd out fear, hope to overthrow despair, comfort adequate for sorrow, and strength sufficient for our temptations and our tasks. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, to the white altar of Thy grace in the brightness of this new morning we come, bowing in our ignorance and weakness, praying for strength and wisdom to face with courage the somber specters that stalk the darkened earth.

Through the angry emotions of present days help us to seek not the vindication of our opinions, but the truth that shall make us free. Save us from presumptive pride that feigns an understanding that it does not possess. If we secretly covet the superior gifts of others, if we inwardly rejoice in the failure of others, if we give

hospitality to thoughts that debase and degrade, if we are satisfied with anything short of our best, if we have readily and perhaps eagerly believed the worst about others, if we have judged our fellows on flimsy and perhaps false reports; if in any human relationship we have been untrue, unfair, unbrotherly: O Thou, who takest away the sin of the world, forgive us, cleanse us, renew us, restore our souls and lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1951

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the fountain of all wisdom and goodness: We thank Thee for the gift of sleep when the tangled web of weary striving and confused thought emerges clarified and straightened by the touch of a new day. In the midst of daily toil and ever-pressing tasks, we lay before Thee the meditations of our hearts, grateful for the noontide pause at this wayside well of peace and prayer.

Bring all our desires and powers, we beseech Thee, into conformity to Thy will. Prepare us for the role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues that concern not only our own dear land but all the continents and the islands of the sea. May our individual lives be as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom. We ask it in the name of that One who is the light of the world. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1951

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the strength of our weakness, the refuge of our weariness, the Good Shepherd of our waywardness: As we front the clamant duties of this new week we come beseeching that Thou wilt steady our spirits with the realization of untapped power available to servants of Thy will, if only they go quietly and confidently about their appointed tasks. As those into whose unworthy hands has been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, may the thoughts of our minds and the sympathies of our hearts and the words of our lips and the decisions of our deliberations be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

Save us from a cynical pessimism by the radiant belief that this evil time is not the end of history, nor is Thy hand shortened that

it cannot save. Knowing that out of the travail of many a violent age a great birth has come, by Thy providence keep our faith steady lest for the lack of it we lose what Thou dost intend in this prophetic day. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, in this temple of freedom we bow at the altar of prayer which our fathers set up at the Nation's birth. We pause now so that before we speak we may listen. In so turbulent a time, with its tumult and shouting, for our souls' sake we must find the quiet places, the still waters, the green pastures if our jaded and frayed spirits are to be restored. We would here be reminded that the very justice and social welfare we are commissioned as public servants to preserve, promote, and protect is rooted and grounded in Thy sovereignty and the verities of Thy eternal kingdom. Against the debasing idolatry of the god-state which, instead of altars of prayer, rears prisons of the mind and heart, we have pledged our moral and material might. In this global contest between light and darkness make us increasingly the kind of a nation, make us as individuals the kind of persons which Thou canst use as the instruments of Thy purpose for all mankind. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1951

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE who, in the miracle of springtime, covers the earth with a tapestry of beauty; who art the source of our being and the goal of our striving: Hallowed be Thy name. At Thy word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor, until the evening.

We would keep within the grasp of Thy firm hand the threads of this day's words and deeds that we may not mar the fair design of what Thou wouldst do for us and through us. Apart from Thee these feverish days are but tangled tragedy, sound, and fury signifying nothing, devoid of meaning, dignity, and beauty. But in Thy radiance trivial rounds become sacraments and even bitterness and disappointment and failure are transfigured and redeemed.

In these demanding days, as Thy servants here face perplexing issues of state, may the strength of each be as the strength of ten

because our hearts are pure. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, who art revealed to us in the order of the world in which we live, in the truth our minds discover and, above all, in spiritual life as we touch it in the noblest sons of men: At the beginning of another week's toil we would bring our fragmentary and partial lives into the presence of Thy wholeness, we would bring our transient and temporary thoughts into the light of Thy eternity, we would bring our restless and irritated spirits into the calm strength of Thine everlasting purpose for all Thy children.

Teach us once again the everlasting mystery that only as we lose ourselves in something higher than ourselves can we find ourselves. To this end, give us great causes to live for, give us a great faith to live by. From doubt and disillusionment, from bitterness and cynicism and frustration in these difficult times, good Lord, deliver us. Let us have vsion to see the way we ought to take through today's perplexing circumstances. May high decisions be made on the right side of great moral questions. Though we may not see all things clearly, let us see some great things plainly, as in the encircling gloom Thou dost give us light enough to walk by. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, who art in heaven and in all Thy works, whose love is unfailing and whose mercies are new every morning: In the midst of thronging duties and confused issues, we pause to commune with Thee, unseen source of goodness, beauty, and truth, that the light which is the light of the world may shine upon us and illumine our path of action. Grant to us a oneness of purpose that shall bring the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world our utmost service unsullied by base motives or self-interest.

To this white altar of devotion we bring our pledge to administer the trust committed to our hands with integrity of character, purity of motive, cleanness of hands, and unswerving firmness of purpose in the fulfillment of the high and holy calling as servants of the Republic and of Thine. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1951

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, at morning and evening and noonday, in Thy light we would see life steadily and seeing it whole discern in it Thy purpose for us and for all Thy children. Thou knowest the lure of temptation to be less than our best; Thou understandest the drain of our daily work and the limitations of our strength. In all our relationships with our fellows, grant us the grace of meekness and the power of self-control. Remove far from us all hypocrisy and pretense. Help us this day to speak only such words and to do only such things as will leave no regret. Minister, we beseech Thee, to the deepest need of our praying hearts. What no man's voice can speak openly Thou seest inwardly.

As we lift up our hearts for divine help in these baffling and perplexing days, come down the secret stairs by which Thou canst enter every contrite heart. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, whose paths are mercy and truth, before the white splendor of whose purity every vileness must shrink away: Lift us, we pray Thee, above the immediate and temporary and set our lives in the wide horizons of abiding verities. As Thy servants, and the people's, in this temple of democracy, save us from the perversion of power that has not Thee in awe. In this day of destiny for us and for the world may we be worthy of our vocation as keepers of the sacred flame. Teach us so to live and so to toil and so to speak as we play our part, in this age on ages telling, that we may face with clear conscience the gaze of our contemporaries and the judgment of posterity. May our attitudes and hopes widen every area of good will within the reach of our influence. In these darkened days may our own spirits be as a beacon of hope amid the encircling gloom of despair. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, who hast folded back the mantle of the night to clothe us in the golden glory of the new day, banish from our

hearts all gloomy thoughts and make us glad with the brightness of hope fed by an invincible faith in eternal verities.

We praise Thee for the triumph of truth over error, to our impatience so slow, to Thyself so sure. We bless Thee for every word of truth which has been spoken the wide world through, for all of right which the human conscience has perceived and made into avenues of more abundant life for Thy children. In all our deadness, breathe on us, Breath of God.

May the life of the spirit become regnant in our lives, delivering us from indolence, from depression and disloyalty, from misuse of Thy gifts and deafness to Thy call; teaching us to sacrifice our comforts for others in answer to the want and woe of the world; making us kindly in thought, gentle in word, generous in deed, and thus lighted candles for the shedding forth of Thy radiance which is the light of the world. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1951

LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT, who art above all nations, and yet who dost dwell with those of an humble and a contrite heart: By Thine indwelling presence, we beseech Thee, cleanse us now from the soil and defilement of these feverish, hectic days in which our strength is spent. Flow through us like clean waters and carry from our hearts the tensions, the resentments, the irritations, and the fears which spoil the music of our lives and lessen the effectiveness of our service. Open our eyes to the faults and evils which mar our own democracy, and which we so readily condemn in other parts of the world. Remind us that beyond the appraisal of man there falls upon our lives the searching light of Thy judgment. Widen our sympathies, expand our understanding, override our prejudice, until the whole earth be our fatherland and striken, starving humanity, under all skies, our care. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY, 24, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in this quiet moment we would be conscious that Thou are nearer than breathing, nearer than hands or feet. Help us to put into the common round of daily life the awareness of Thy presence and the reality of eternal values. Forgive us that at times

we are so dull of heart that burning bushes besides our path leave us unmoved and that in a world so full of Thy beauty we are so blind. In a day great with crisis and freighted with destiny for all the earth, save us from the unpardonable sin of making the hopes of the despairing world the pawns of partisan politics. In faith and confidence may we commit our ways unto Thee. Grant us a clearer vision of Thy way and Thy will and renewed courage to follow the gleam in this confusing hour. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we turn to Thee at the noontide hour when, from the Nation's beginnings, our fathers have paused to seek Thy face. Commissioned to be peacemakers in a contending world, we first need a peace within our own hearts far deeper than the world can give. Amid the confusion and clamor of strife without may our hearts be garrisoned by the peace which is the gift of Thy grace.

Defeat the doubts within our minds that battle for the supremacy of our wills. Quicken our faltering faith with the strength of Thy eternal purpose which cannot be ultimately defeated. Transform our wavering aims into strong and sacrificial endeavor set toward building the kingdom of Thy love and justice. In this forum of deliberation and debate, amid the din and clash of differing human opinions, may we unite in keeping always an altar of prayer where a constant sense of the eternal may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good. In the dear Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, always Thou art near us. In Thee we live, move, and have our being; but often our cold and spiritually insensitive hearts keep Thee on the outside of the locked doors of our lives. Enmeshed as we are in a multiplicity of things, slaves to the tyranny of the tangible, weighted down with the pressing concerns of the Nation, with all other voices hushed at noontide we come bowing in reverence, lifting from this daily altar of prayer but one petition: "Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee."

In all the perplexities and confusions of these days, with clouds and darkness even around Thy throne, we would steel our resolution to do what these times demand of us by the assurance that Thou art behind the shadows and in the shadows, keeping watch above Thine own. Quicken our hearts that they may become responsive to Thy touch. Save us from all national and international attitudes and actions which have not Thee in awe. Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet lest we forget to use our liberties and privileges, bought with so crimson a cost, to promote the common good of this stricken earth. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, as our pilgrim feet tread unknown paths, new every morning is the revelation of Thy brooding care. In the Junetide glory of the awakened earth, when common bushes flame with Thee and heaven and earth are praising Thee in newness of life, our hearts come singing: "This is my Father's world." May a spiritual springtime make our own lives as the garden of the Lord. In the beauty of holiness may we serve Thee and our troubled generation with sincerity, tranquillity and self-effacement.

As we face the tasks of a new week, redeem us from insincerity and from all pretense. We pray for light for one step ahead and courage to face criticism if need be for the sake of truth. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1951

ETERNAL FATHER, Thou who art the light behind life's shadows, the love behind life's sorrows, shine in morning splendor upon these darkened lives of ours. We confess that we have remembered and treasured the words of the Master's matchless prayer, "Thy kingdom come," but too often we have forgotten their flaming meaning. The great hope of that radiant kingdom of love has grown dim, as hatred and selfishness and man's inhumanity to man have desecrated the earth. Yet we are grateful that in darkest days prophetic souls have ever marched with Thee, keeping step to the distant music of Thy sure victory. In spite of those who mock that fair dream, in

spite of cunning foes without and fears within our own fickle hearts, keep us as the ministers of Thy purpose steadfast, on the march to a redeemed earth and to that City of Light whose builder and maker is God. We ask in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we come praying that Thou wilt refresh our souls and restore our faith as in all the bewilderment of the world's fiery strife our burdened hearts seek the quiet sanctuary of Thy healing presence. We are grateful that again we can turn unfilled to Thee with the tender grace of a new morning, fresh with the sparkling dew of Thy never-failing mercies. Thou hast called us to play our part in a day of destiny and crisis. May we not be found wanting. Forgetting the uworthy things that are behind and stretching forth to the better things that are before, as in hours of vision we see a fairer earth, let us lay aside the weight of every prejudice and the covetous sins that do so easily beset us, and regarding our high privilege as a sacred trust march on with glad and eager feet with the armies that go to free, not to bind, to develop and not to rule, to cooperate and not to dominate, until the knowledge of the Lord, who is no respecter of persons, shall cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1951

O GOD, who art sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat: Strengthen us, we pray Thee, for the high enterprise of building a more decent world where Thy children may dwell in plenty and fraternity and liberty. In the unknown days of peril and of challenge which loom ahead, give us spirits that are calm and confident, wise and just in the protecting shadow of Thy unfailing love. Though the road to peace in our time be tedious and toilsome, calling for blood and sweat and tears, still lead us on, following the gleam of Thy guidance with clean hands and pure hearts, worthy of the trust the Nation has committed to our hands. We ask it in the name of that One who is our refuge and our strength. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, the fierce storms sweeping across our world have left us weary with watching; these testing times are revealing our every weakness. In these times of tension and clamor, anxiety and uncertainty, we turn to the infinite calm of Thy changeless love that we may find inner sustenance, wells of living water springing up, courage in battling for truth, and serenity under strain. Give us a readiness for the severe disciplines of self-control demanded by these days of crisis and destiny. So gird the lives of Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs that they may make all decisions greatly, walk on the high levels of noble purposes and with kindling sympathies as wide as human need in all things quit them like men. In the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, who art the center and soul of every sphere and yet who doth dwell also with those of humble and contrite hearts: Thou art never far from any one of us; but, alas, often in our thoughts we are very far from Thee. Take Thou the dimness of our souls away. We would make of our hearts a shrine where spirit with spirit may meet. May we be of that company of whom it can be said, "They looked unto Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed."

Save us from accepting the low standards of the world across which we move. Deliver us from the cowardly device of escaping moral decisions by spinelessly melting into our surroundings, and from the paralysis of pessimism and cynicism. Across the debris of ancient wrongs may our glad eyes see the coming of the glory of the Lord, as selfish exploitation makes way for brotherhood and for man. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1951

FATHER OF MERCIES, in Thee we live; away from Thee we perish. Thou only canst redeem our life from destruction. As we witness man's inhumanity to man, we confess with sorrow that human devices and designs have deceived and betrayed every fair hope and

brought ashes for beauty; the arm of flesh has failed us; man has forsaken Thy ways all holy, and slighted thy word.

Forbid that fronting a day such as this, freighted with sobering and solemn significance for the long years that stretch ahead, we should meet titanic issues with tiny conceptions and with petty patterns. In this dear land of our love and prayer, may we close our national ranks in a new unity, as powers without pity or conscience seek to destroy the birthright of our liberty of worship and speech and the sanctity of the individual. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, Thou searcher of men's hearts, from whom no secrets are hid: Help us in this opening moment of a new day's council to draw near to Thee, in tranquillity, in humility, in sincerity. With Thy benediction may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing and clear thinking, with hatred of all hypocrisy, deceit, and sham, and in the knowledge that all great and noble service in this world is based on gentleness and patience and truth. Setting a seal upon our lips, so that no thoughtless words of ours shall sting or harm another, valiantly may we meet the tasks that await us with laughter and kindness and cheerful good will. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, who putteth down the mighty from their seat and exalteth the humble and meek, Thou hast made us heirs of all the ages. In the heat and burden of our swiftly ebbing day may we be the agents of Thy beneficent will for mankind, with honor unsullied, playing our part in the life of our times. In spite of our own shortcomings, which we confess with contrition, in this hour of world crisis Thou hast summoned us as trustees of civilization to defend the heritage of the ages and to help create institutions essential to human progress. With full purpose of heart, wherever we are called to stand in this epic hour, may we strike our blow for the truth of God and the freedom of man. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1951

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: As the torch of a new day lights afresh the path of duty, we bow before Thee in humility and hope. As Thou hast bound together the free peoples of the earth, with all their differing traditions and cultures in a costly struggle to preserve their threatened liberties, hold them together, we beseech Thee, in a stern resolve which can never be broken by any sinister force bent on enslaving the earth.

Hasten, we pray, through us the day of an ampler life for all, when every man shall dwell in safety among his neighbors, free from gnawing want, free from torturing fears, free to speak his thoughts and free to choose his altar of worship. Above all other acclaim or reward in these searching days we crave the assurance of Thy approving voice: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1951

O LORD OF OUR PILGRIM YEARS, as through sleep and darkness we have been safely brought, we thank Thee for a new day with its round of concerns and duties. As in Thy sight Thy servants stand here in posts of high public office, may they be solemnly conscious that their decisions, their attitudes, their words are not their own; but go out from this Chamber as a light on a hill, to influence and to mold the whole structure of human relationships around this troubled world.

Help us in all things to be masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of others. In these times of tension and strain, preserve us from magnifying little slights and stings, or giving them. Keep us calm in temper, clear in mind, sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, meanness, or even treachery. In these crucial and creative days enable us, we pray Thee, to perform faithfully and well what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with Thee, our God. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. **Amen.**

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, 'mid all the traffic of life's busy ways at the beginning of another week of challenge and of toil we turn unfilled to Thee. From the framing of laws and the forming of policies, holding in their reach the woe or weal of the commonwealth, we would pause amid all the shattering events and tempestuous emotions of our times at an inner sanctuary where the world's angry voices die and Thou alone art real.

May we follow the gleam of the highest and best we know, as it leads o'er moor and fen and crag and torrent, till the evening comes and the fever of life is over and our work is done; then of Thy great mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1951

DEAR GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, whate'er our name or sign, under the canopy of Thy goodness and mercy we pause to seek Thy face. Gather our wandering minds and our wayward spirits into Thy secret place where, even before we lift our own voices concerning the affairs of these perplexing times, we may have ears to hear those voices which tell us of the meaning and worth of life. On the tablets of our hearts may there be written Thy decrees. In all our attitudes and expressions may we not forget that he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his own heart is better than he that taketh a city.

Enrich us with the durable satisfactions of life so that the multiplying years may not find us bankrupt in those things that matter most, the golden currency of faith and hope and love. We ask it in the name of man's Best Man and love's Best Love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1951

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, above all the commotion and confusion of the busy present, with its demands that drain our souls, we would turn for this hallowed moment to seek the quietness of Thy presence at the beginning of the day's deliberations. In the secret of Thy pavilion we take refuge from the strife of tongues. By tasks too difficult for us we are driven unto Thee for strength to endure and

wisdom to interpret rightly the signs of these trying times. In these hallowed halls may Thy servants, trusted by the people with high responsibility, serve with fidelity the cause of our country and our common humanity, and so help to build the city of God on the ruined wastes of this disturbed and disordered world. We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, open to us, we pray Thee, the gates of the morning as, at its swinging portals, we bow here at this wayside shrine of Thy grace; for these are uncertain and troublous times and the margin of our inner strength seems often perilously low. We stand in dire need of courage, fortitude, and stability. Grant us now the grace of a quiet heart and an humble mind.

With Thy light upon our ways send us forth contrite, forgiven, and cleansed. Save us from spoiling the music of this new day by cherished hates and corroding resentments. Let no unguarded word of ours bruise the rightful self-respect of any fellow traveler by our side.

In the crises of our times, join us with those who across the wastes and wilderness of human need throw up a highway for our God. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, all the ways of our need lead to Thee, our deepest cravings but drive us to the refreshing springs of Thy strength. For this quiet moment may we be conscious of the lure of far horizons, the light of lifted skies.

We pray for a commonwealth of brotherhood, where those who toil shall be honored and rewarded, where man's worth shall be reckoned higher than the price of things he fashions with hand or brain, and where science, redeemed from destruction, shall serve the common good. We would be workers together with Thee for the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of tyranny, for the redemption of democracy from its failures and for the establishment of a just and lasting peace. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1951

ETERNAL FATHER, we thank Thee that Thou art not far off, out on the vast rim of the universe, but nearer to us than breathing. Thou art our refuge and our strength, our daily sustenance, the fountain of a courage that will not fail and of a power that can use our fallible weakness as its healing and illuminating channel. In this confused day, with its angry voices and contending claims, grant unto these Thy servants that they may be faithful to every trust committed by the people to their hands, giving utterance only to their highest, noblest thought, and that upon their shoulders there may rest unsullied the white mantle of the Nation's honor. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 2, 1951

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, to whose kingdom of justice and love the future belongs, it is Thy might which has made and preserved us a nation. As we come to this week of an immortal date engraven forever on the grateful memory of every true patriot of the Republic, we lift our joyful praise for the American dream, the dream of a land where the people rule, of a state which is the instrument of the common good, of a Union which finds room for the richness of diversity. In this solemn hour of the supreme test of America's faith, when determined foes deny, defy, and would defile the very conceptions and aspirations which to us, nurtured in liberty, make life precious and sacred, may this Nation under God have a new birth of freedom. If the way to victory is long and difficult and at crimson cost, still keep our wills steadfast and our faith strong as was the faith of the founding fathers when they laid the foundations of this Nation of our love and prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1951

OUR FATHERS' GOD AND OURS, on the inspiring birthday of national independence we have confessed our dependence upon Thee: In Thee are the very roots of our freedom. Make the faith of the fathers, we pray, real to us in these tempestuous days. Save us from a freedom of speech so empty that we have nothing worth saying,

from a freedom of worship so futile that we have no God to adore, from freedom from want and fear with no creative idea as how to use our plenty or security for the redemption of our social order, for the salvation of our own souls.

We front another and a crucial year in the life of our Nation, built upon sure spiritual foundations, with the deep prayer of our hearts:

> "America, America, God mend thine every flaw,
> Confirm thy soul in self-control,
> Thy liberty in law."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1951

ETERNAL GOD OUR FATHER, whose life is the breath of our being: In these times that try our souls as we gird the might of the Nation to defend our threatened liberties, we pray that we may take care to strengthen the spiritual foundations of our democracy, knowing that without Thee we build on sinking sand. Give us hearts and minds big enough for those social reconstructions, for those daring feats of generous good will that shall yet turn human life into a glad and gracious fraternity around this torn and tortured world. Help us to remember that the spiritual splendor of our heritage cannot be handed down, that constantly it is to be rewon by eternal vigilance, and that with every generation it must be reborn, repossessed, and reinterpreted in the living garden of freedom.

Now God be praised who hath matched us with this hour of world destiny, when we are privileged with our all to defend the treasure committed to us by the founding fathers and to guard their dream and ours against sterner odds and darker perils than the signers of the Declaration were called to measure or face. Give to us peace in our time, O God! The peace that comes of purity, and strength to simple justice due. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1951

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who amidst the shifting sands of time standest sure: Like men who turn from dusty toil to the cleansing of crystal streams, so we lift our soiled faces to Thee, from the perplexities and imperfections which crowd the common days. As we pause now

in reverent silence, let this high place of the Nation's life, so great a factor in tomorrow's pattern for all men, become the audience chamber of Thy presence. Because there is no solution of the world's ills save as it springs from the hearts of men and because out of the heart are the issues of life, we pray for ourselves. May we stand in this holy place with pure hearts and clean hands. Purify our hearts by Thy grace, feed our minds with Thy truth, guide our feet in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. **Amen.**

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in the midst of epochal days in which Thou hast cast our lot, we would toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. We humbly invoke Thy Spirit's guidance as with a sense of awesome responsibility we face the thorny problems of our saddened and shadowed world. Like tillers of the soil who stand reverently, with bowed heads, listening to the music of holy bells, we pause now at noontime to become spiritually aware of silvery notes from a pealing belfry no mortal eye can see nor ear hear.

May Thy holy powers of renewal be felt in every heart. And may all that is withered and blighted in us be morally and spiritually restored. Send us forth with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world with an unruffled kindness that is strength and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, everywhere present but often unreal to us because of our unawareness of Thee, come to us now, we beseech Thee, in the quietness of this hallowed moment dedicated to the things unseen and abiding.

We are grateful that there are many paths to Thee and that Thou canst minister to us through the glories of nature, through the mind's apprehension of truth, through the soul's silent approach to Thee when we shut ourselves away from the busy world. We come now praying that Thou wilt bestow upon us strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight to meet the demands of our time.

We pray that we may be tall enough in moral and spiritual stature to rise above the petty prejudices of our embittered days. Guide our Nation to such use of its power as may cause the peoples of the earth to rise up and call us blessed. As such was the dream of our Nation's founders, so now, in the day of our opportunity, may we fail not man nor Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1951

ETERNAL FATHER, who art the same yesterday, today, and forever, whose throne is established in righteousness, whose mercies are new every morning, whose love knows no end nor change:

Lift the light of Thy countenance upon us, pilgrims of the night as all our fathers were, that remembering all the way by which Thou hast led us we may take heart and hope as we face the duties and demands of these troublous and anxious days.

We pray for our Nation and for the world with whose destinies our destinies are all tangled. Let not the treasures and the crimson sacrifices of life now being poured out come to a vain end. Save us from the futile repetition of old errors and the restoration of old evils. Let not ignorance or mean partisanship or selfish greed block the way to a new order in the world, with hope of lasting peace, enlarging brotherhood, and increasing opportunity for more abundant life to oppressed peoples everywhere.

Grant to these servants of the Republic, who hold the weal or woe of so many in their keeping, insight, intelligence, and courage to use it. Grant them the vision splendid of Thy kingdom on earth and the faith to further it. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1951

O LORD GOD, who knowest the burdens we bear and the temptations which beset us, grant us the royalty of inward happiness and the composure which comes from living near to Thee. Daily renew in us a sense of joy and let Thy spirit dwell in our hearts that we may carry about the infection of a good courage and may meet all life's ills and accidents with gallant, high-hearted happiness, giving Thee thanks always for all things.

O Thou Great Physician of men and nations, as Thou dost look upon the distractions of the world with their ever-increasing turmoil, be pleased to stretch forth Thine hand in healing; prosper all those organizations and institutions which are working for a better understanding between men and for a just and durable order of society.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom all to whom is entrusted the responsibility of government. In white wrath at the vile treacheries which today foul the earth, give us that personal integrity which shall make us fit to be the defenders of those high things which make life worth while. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou knowest all the way by which we have come. Thou knowest the pathway our feet are now treading. Thou knowest the unbeaten track before us. Our times are in Thy hands. Our Lord, we would have it so. We would not ask to see life's distant scenes—one step enough for us. Enough for us the blessed assurance that Thou art the love that never forgets, the light that never fails, and the life that never ends.

Thou hast taught us to love beauty and truth and goodness. May Thy truth make us free—free from pettiness and pride and prejudice, and from all the ugly sins of disposition which do so easily beset us. Lift us above the mud and scum of mere things to the holiness of Thy beauty, that our daily tasks may be edged with crimson and gold.

In all our relationships, private and public, lead us in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whose inward fellowship means cleansing, peace and power, we come asking that there may be dissolved the barriers that keep our souls from Thee. Save us, we pray, from a towering self-sufficiency that will not even recognize our need, from an impenitence too proud to confess guilt, and from the spiritual blindness that sees vividly the visible but is unaware of the invisible and eternal. May this noontide pause in the busy day be but the

symbol of zones of quiet we habitually keep inviolate around our too agitated lives. We confess that the world is too much with us, in getting and spending we lay waste our powers. Save us from crippling pessimism and despair. Build Thou our inner strength and grant that we may be among those who stand in the evil day and having done all still stand. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 30, 1951

O THOU WHO ART THE LIGHT OF MAN'S MIND, with eyes of wonder, we have greeted again the eternal miracle of a new day; as dawn has conquered the darkness, so rise, we pray Thee, with morning light upon our souls; let the effulgent noontide of Thy enlightening grace make clear our paths. Through the terror and tumult of these darkened days may we discern the shining path which is leading upward to the City of God, as obediently and patiently we follow the kindly light.

Lead us along treacherous and torturous ways by Thy unfailing love into more abundant life for all the world, until it shall be daylight everywhere. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we would lift our gaze from the valley of the daily round to the far horizon of our fairest dreams, from the tyranny of drab details to the glory of the heavenly vision, to which we dare not be disobedient. Pressed by the practical problems which crowd our hours and which cry for solution, we would keep clear in our vision and faith the eternal things amid the tempests of the temporal.

Teach us the secret of dwelling in a world full of hate and, yet, not becoming hateful persons. Giving our best ability to the peoples' good, may we rise above life's bitterness by an unshakable belief in the shining splendor of humanity. We ask it in the Name which is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1951

ETERNAL SPIRIT, who dost overarch our transiency with Thine everlastingness and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength, make Thyself real to us as facing the toil of another week we turn unfilled

to Thee. In a shaken world we seek stability. In a noisy world we need inner peace. In a fear-haunted world we crave confidence and courage, and in a world of rising and falling empires we would be held steady by a vision of Thy eternal kingdom whose sun never sets. With a devotion that holds nothing back may it be our ruling passion to serve the present age. Give us the inner strength—

"To be true to all truth the world denies,
Not tongue-tied by its gilded lies,
Not always right in all men's eyes,
But faithful to the light within."

Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in a troubled and baffling day we come as men whose strength is unequal to our task; we come as those whose lives are intertwined with the blunderings, follies, futilities of a day that has so largely lost its way. We cannot go on with confidence without hallowed moments when all earth's noises are hushed and when we can make sure of our bearings by looking above us at the stars of the eternal, those changeless lights which guided our fathers o'er moor and fen and crag and torrent.

In this high week of destiny we come beseeching Thee: God bless America, as to a vanquished foe she offers a treaty, not of vengeance but of reconciliation, meeting perfidy with amity. Facing the seething east at our Golden Gate we would build a bridge of the Golden Rule, seeking not domination but cooperation, in a common crusade against tyranny and in mutual endeavor to fashion together a world of peace with freedom and justice. God bless America, and make our America more and more a land that Thou canst use and bless for the healing of the nations. We ask in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, in this hallowed moment we would hush all other noises that we may hear Thy voice in the silence speaking to our hearts in this troubled day when men faint for fear and the love of man grows cold and there is distress of nations upon the earth. In the high tasks committed to us in this age on ages telling, keep us

resolute and steadfast, abounding in hope and knowing that our labor is not in vain in Thee. Restore our faith in the invincibility of good. Renew in us a confidence in love which never faileth and make us to lift up our eyes and behold, beyond the things which are seen and temporal, the abiding things which are unseen and eternal that cannot be shaken. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1951

O GOD, OUR FATHER, before whom the long travail of the centuries is wrought out and who hast ushered us into this strange world where no good thing comes save as we fulfill the conditions of its coming, strengthen us with Thy might for the high enterprise of building here a more decent world for Thy family. To this end, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt bless all institutions that seek the good of men and women and children. Especially this September day, when the doors of the public schools of the Nation open to a great army of children, in this place where Thy servants chosen by the people face the high tasks of legislation we would remember those who carry on the holy ministry of education. This day we would implore Thy blessing upon all the men and women who teach the children and youth of our Nation, for they are the architects of the future. Do Thou reward Thy servants with a glad sense of their eternal worth as teachers of the race, and in the heat of the day do Thou show them a spring by the wayside that flows from the eternal silence of God and gives new light to the eyes of all who drink of it. We ask it in the name of that One who is the truth and the life. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1951

GOD OF ALL LOVING MEN, in a world so full of evil we lift this day our prayer for personal integrity. We crave an unintimidated conscience, firm and resolute even before the small temptations of public office.

Save us from the shirked responsibility, the easy lie, the unfair retort. We would be honest with ourselves. May we esteem faithfulness before the bar of our own judgment above the praise of others. Arm us with the power to resist entrenched error, vested

selfishness, and sanctioned prejudice. Save us from the fear of nonconformity. Help us to reject the deceiving promise of life made easy by the added toil of other men and by attempts to reap where we have not sown. Help us to keep ourselves active in the service of our highest motives and thus to be colaborers with Thee in making this a better world. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1951

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, by thronging duties pressed we pause reverently and with quiet hearts for a dedicated moment at this daily altar of prayer. We are grateful that amid all life's vicissitudes and buffetings, its strain and stress, that—

> "From every stormy wind that blows,
> From every swelling tide of woes,
> There is a calm, a sure retreat;
> 'Tis found beneath the mercy seat."

And so, facing tests of wisdom that are beyond our puny, fallible powers, we seek a strength that is not our own. We fain would join the exultant company who across all the centuries have been able to chant with victorious gladness: "I sought the Lord, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears."

Grant us a common faith that any tyranny over the bodies and minds of men carries with it its own death germs. Singing in our hearts, "A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing," let us march confidently toward the clean world our hands can help to fashion. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1951

O GOD AND FATHER OF MANKIND, again through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we face a new day. Wilt Thou lift our duty above drudgery. In the heat and burden of noonday's task let not our strength fail nor our vision fade. Make us patient and considerate one with another in the fret and jar of human contacts, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way. Give us, O Lord, a reverence for truth wherever it may lead, a deep

desire to think and speak truly, and a passion to hasten the day when the rule of justice and righteousness shall engirdle the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, who desirest truth in the inward parts, we would come to Thee in that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Keep us, we beseech Thee, from the folly of attempting to deceive Thee, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. As those whose powers are dedicated to the Nation's weal, make us ever faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim, responsive to the human needs of this suffering earth; setting a seal upon our lips so that no thoughtless words of ours shall sting or harm another. Valiantly may we meet this day's waiting tasks with kindness and laughter and cheerful good will.

"Our God, we offer Thee this day
All that we think or do or say,
Uniting it with what was done,
On the earth by Jesus Christ, Thy Son."

Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, whose mercies are new every morning, at this daily shrine of our spirits hallowed for us by a special sense of Thy presence, we would lift up our souls to Thee. Even as evil rages at its worst and deluded people imagine vain things, strengthen our trust in the eternal goodness. All beauty is Thine, the loveliness on the face of nature and the beauty hidden in the heart of man.

Deliver us this day from ugliness in thought and speech and conduct. May ours be a goodness that is set aflame with moral indignation at blatant betrayals of trust, endangering the very perpetuity of the Republic. Give us a new sense of our national destiny and the calm assurance that in all the shouting and tumult of these disordered days Thy truth is marching on. We ask it in the name of that One who is the truth and the life. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1951

OUR FATHER, who revealest Thyself in all that is true and pure and lovely, we beseech Thee to help us make our minds the fitting audience chambers for Thy presence. O Thou in whom there is no darkness at all, help us to open wide the windows of our lives that we may be filled with Thy light. We pause in the midst of duties that press us to acknowledge our human frailty and to lean our weakness against the pillars of Thy almightiness.

Grant us the understanding and the courage adequately to meet the demands of each recurring day. In a world filled with hate may we march under the bright banners of Thy love. May we be saved by hope, a hope that transcends all mere optimism, that in the day of Thy victory even the wrath of man shall praise Thee. Strengthen our hearts with a confidence that cannot be shaken in the sure coming of that dawn when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1951

O THOU WHO ART THE UPWARD REACH within the soul of man, too near to be found, too simple to be conceived, too good to be believed, show us the folly of doubting that which is our own, the very life of our life. In every age wise men have turned to Thee in their search for truth and have not relied in vain upon Thy constancy and faithfulness. Grant that we may find the same inspiration in our quest for knowledge and wisdom and light and a like reenforcement of our daily courage and faith. Uplift our souls that they may catch the vision of a new and better day upon this earth.

In facing the bewildering problems of our times, renew both our candor and our courage. Hold constantly before us the vision of men enslaved by ignorance, superstition, and fear, and renew within us, we pray Thee, day by day the spirit of dedication to the long task of establishing the truth which alone can make men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1951

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever, we beseech Thee to grant unto us who in the morning seek Thy face, fervently to desire, obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto

Thee. We would lay aside any selfish partisan ambitions, so that with tallness of stature we may see above the walls of our prideful opinions the good of the largest number. As we play our part in days of destiny, with all mankind standing in the valley of decision, make us worthy of these demanding times that call aloud for wisdom and character. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1951

FATHER OF LIGHTS, in a world that lieth in darkness, swept by the fitful winds of doubt and despair, we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within us is not dimmed. Out of the shadows we would lift our faces to the one true light, knowing that if we keep our hearts with Thee there is no darkness from without which can quench the light that is within.

In this desperate hour when the world's hope of a brighter tomorrow is committed to our frail hands, join us to the great company of unconquered spirits who in evil times have stood their ground, preserving the heritage of man's best, and whose flaming faith has made their lives as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom. We ask it in the ever-blessed name of that One who is the light of the world. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we bow before Thee at this morning hour, grant to our anxious, groping hearts the assurance that behind the shadows and in them standeth one who slumbers not nor sleeps. We are beset by perplexity; our needs are many, but our greatest need is Thee. Unless we find Thee and art found of Thee, the laws of Thy physical universe break our mortal life and the laws of Thy moral order make mockery of our futile rebellion. Only in Thy will is our peace. So fashion our desires and needs in accordance with Thy will, that rising to the full measure of our duty and our opportunity we may yet build the new world of brotherhood for which good men have bravely died, wherein the nations may live together in trust and fellowship. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1951

MOST MERCIFUL GOD who art the fountain of all grace, the source of all wisdom and goodness, we would lift our eyes to the infinite blue of Thy love which arches each new day. Thou hast called us, whose lives so swiftly ebb away, to labor with Thee in the unfolding purpose of the ages. Near this forum of national debate, with its din and clash of human interests, may we ever keep an altar of communion with the Unseen, where a constant sense of the eternal may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, for a hallowed moment snatched from the pressing concerns of state, we bow in reverence at this wayside altar of prayer. We would be still and know that Thou art God. Into Thy hands we commit ourselves and our cause. Frail and fallible as we are, make us, we beseech Thee, the instruments of Thy purpose in speeding the day when hatred will be conquered by love, when fear will give way to confidence, and when the glad service of the common need will join all men everywhere in one great company of comrades. Against all odds and obstacles may we keep our love of life, our delight in friendship, our hunger for new knowledge, our hatred of a lie, and our intolerance for what our hearts tell us is false and degrading.

Accepting in humility the call of destiny to be the leader and center of a new world of freedom, quicken our love of America that we may see the shining glory of the Republic both as a heritage and a trust. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1951

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the source from which we come, the goal to which we travel, the light and strength of these our pilgrim days, as we set our faces once more toward our daily tasks we pray for strength sufficient to endure as those seeing the Invisible. Enable us to win

the victory over everything, whether in our circumstances or in ourselves, that is unworthy and mean. Save us from blighting the enthusiasm of any heart by the flare of sudden anger or secret hate. May we not bruise the rightful self-respect of another by contempt or malice.

We pray for those who are shaping public opinion in our time, for all who legislate in the people's name, for all who write what other people read, for all who are holding aloft the torch of truth in a world that has lost its way. And, above all, we pray for clean hands and pure hearts worthy of the trust the Nation has committed to our keeping. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1951

ETERNAL GOD, our need is the altar of our prayer. The panoply of Thy love is the sanctuary of our devotion. Thou hast called us whose lives pass swiftly, as a watch in the night, to labor with Thee in the unfolding purpose of the ages. Since it is of Thy mercy that this another day is added to our mortal lives, sanctify our work; let no unhallowed words pollute the tongues which Thou hast made to praise and bless Thee. May the meditations of our minds and hearts be acceptable in Thy sight. So distill upon us the dews of Thy quietness and Thy calm that in simple trust and deeper reverence we may be found steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in Him and for Him and with Him our labor is not in vain. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we come before Thee with thanksgiving grateful that each new day enfolds us with Thy loving kindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness every night. Cleanse our hearts, we pray Thee, from all guile that as a part of this corrupt and perverse generation we may abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. May our attitudes and actions make us a part of the solution rather than of the problem of our ailing social order. As with moral and material might we smite and vow to shatter the rampant iniquity of today, which degrades Thy children and keeps them from more abundant life, grant us a vision of the far-off years as they may be if redeemed by the sons of God; that we may take heart in these

days freighted with destiny and do battle for Thy children and ours, leaving the earth fairer and cleaner than we found it. We ask it in that Name which is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, help of the ages past, hope for the years to come: In the hush of this moment, closing the door of prayer upon the outer world with its tumultuous and unpredictable events, bowing now in the white light of Thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are, petty and proud creatures who seek their own wills and whims in spite of the polished courtesies and noble professions with which we come to Thee. Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts from all defiling foulness and from the secret sin of pretense. In tense days when the words we utter here may affect the uttermost parts of the earth, touch our lips with live coals from Thy altar of devotion. Fit us faithfully to protect the Republic from outward aggression and from the treason of inner selfishness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1951

GOD, OUR FATHER, we would make our hearts, cleansed by Thy forgiving grace, a temple of Thy presence, knowing that only to the pure in heart dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face. We come asking not that Thou wouldst give heed to the faltering petitions our lips bring, but that Thou will bend Thine ear to the crying of our deep needs which words cannot express. We bring to the altar of prayer our inmost selves, cluttered and confused, where good and evil, the petty and the great are so entwined. May the eternal immensities shame our little thoughts and ways. May some revealing glimpse of what we might be convict us of what we are. Enable those who in these baffling days act and speak for waiting humanity to rise to greatness in this hour of destiny. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, whose spirit searcheth all things and whose love beareth all things, for this hallowed moment, turning from our divisive loyalties and our party cries we would bow humbly in

a unity of spirit with a vivid realization of our oneness in Thee. Forgive us for praying that Thy kingdom might come and then, by our own selfish stubbornness, barring the way when it has sought to come through us.

Grant us a fundamental fealty to the common good, expressing itself in divergent attitudes and convictions, which are the glory of our national heritage, yet putting above all partisan advantage the weal and welfare of the commonwealth to which we solemnly pledge our allegiance. With the wrecks of nations which have broken Thy law of love still smoking in ruins before our eyes, let the purifying stream of Thy mercy cleanse our national life lest our destruction be determined and we, too, go the way of the nations that have forgotten God. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt make this moment of devotion a pavilion of Thy peace, as, trusting only in Thy mercy, we bring our soiled lives to Thy cleansing grace. We come with burdens on our minds and hearts for our Nation and the world and with deep anxiety concerning the future our children will inherit from our hands; yet we live in the faith that Thy truth is marching on, even in the perplexities and dislocations of these terrific days.

We thank Thee for every word of truth which has been spoken the wide world through for all of right which the human conscience has perceived and woven into the social fabric, which all the wrath of misguided men cannot destroy. Make us the ministers of that understanding and love which will not halt its growing sway until it joins all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples in one great fraternity. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, to whom a thousand years are but as one day, while last life's ebbing hours make us bold and swift and brave to do Thy will. In this exalted Chamber of governance, we beseech Thee, pour the riches of Thy grace upon those who here stand in the Nation's name. Give them fairness of appraisal, poise amid con-

fusion, the kindly heart, nobility of goodness, and the simple faith in man that is more than coronets. Teach us so to live and so to toil, and so to play our part in this age on ages telling that we may face with clear conscience the gaze of our contemporaries and the judgment of posterity. We ask it in the name that is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, endue with Thy wisdom our fallible minds. We come to Thee at the noontide hour when, from the Nation's beginning, our fathers have turned aside to seek Thy face. In disturbing days, strengthen us with the assurance that in the supreme tests only the soul is decisive and that only the spirit can save the flesh. Even as the busy tribes of humanity, with all their cares and fears, are carried swiftly onward with the flood of this tempestuous day, lead us who seek a sense of Thy presence to still waters and green pastures, where in some quiet shrine of devotion we may be reassured of those values which are excellent and permanent and which assert their sovereignty in all life's changing scenes. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1951

O GOD, the might of them that put their trust in Thee, amid all the subtle dangers that beset us save us from the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own strength. In a world so uncertain about many things we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee. The din of words, freighted with malice and suspicion and threatened aggression, assails our ears. Grant us an inner calm, undisturbed by any outward commotion. We beseech Thee, give us courage to seek the truth honestly and the reverence to follow humbly the kindly light that leads us on. Thou hast created us to be Thy temples. May the holy places of our inner lives harbor nothing unworthy of our high calling in Thee. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1951

O GOD OUR FATHER, whose love for Thy children reaches to the ends of the earth, in the golden glory of a new dawn as the curtain

of darkness is folded back Thou hast granted us the high privilege of faring forth to be laborers together with Thee, in the coronation of Thy great purposes for a redeemed earth. We wait now for Thy benediction, that we may face whatever the day brings in the gladness of Thy guidance, in the glory of Thy service, and in the solemn realization that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

To the leaders of our Nation in these difficult and dangerous days give, we beseech Thee, kind hearts, clear thought, and quiet faith. And among ourselves, and in our dealings with all the peoples of the earth, in nations great and small, may we be so transparently just and fair that falsehood and every evil that shuns the light may be banished by the truth which makes men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1951

O GOD WHO ART THE HOPE of all the ends of the earth, as in former times Thy spirit didst breathe over the chaos, confusions, and divisions of struggling States and weld them into one Nation, and didst lead forth our fathers unto a wealthy place; so, we beseech Thee, in these latter days having girded us to conquer tyranny without, wilt Thou heal the tensions which threaten to tear the fair robe of our democracy. Save us from violence and discord, from all pride and arrogance. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those who in Thy name are here trusted with the authority of governance, to the end that there may be peace and prosperity within our borders. Forbid that the precious oil of our unity be spilled upon the ground to ignite selfish fires. May it still feed the flame of liberty's torch as it enlightens the whole darkened earth. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1951

ALMIGHTY GOD, under the all-embracing canopy of Thy goodness and mercy which have followed us all the days of our lives, we come as children in our Father's house. Beneath all diversities of gifts and of thought we seek the common unity which binds us together with the cords of Thy brooding love, which will not let us go, and which seeketh us, even in perplexities and pain. Away from all the divisive forces of the world about us, which tear and separate and push apart, we would kneel in penitence at the altar of the one God whose love

shed abroad in our hearts alone can send us out on our differing and often difficult paths, hoping all things and enduring all things.

From the valley of futility and despair we lift our eyes to the hills of eternal verities which stab the horizon like great and glorious steeples pointing to the skies, for we know that our help and our hope are in Thee, who hath made heaven and earth. Amen.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1951

OUR FATHER GOD, who art without beginning or end of days, who countest the nations as the dust of the balance, who puttest down the mighty from their seat and exaltest the humble and the meek: Allowed by Thee, we have been called to be servants of the Nation in a tense and tortured time when the world has been plowed with violence and when wars and rumors of war vex the earth; in such a day Thou hast summoned us to mend the flaws of our own democracy and to erase its blemishes, and to unleash the might of freedom against rampant evil bent on enslaving all people. Through this crucial period we have been, at best, unprofitable servants. As we come to the end of a chapter of our stewardship in these momentous times, there must be recorded this day "What I have written, I have written."

Now, unto Thy holy keeping we commit ourselves and all that has here been done and said. Pardon and overrule what has been done unworthily, or left undone or done amiss. Strengthen all that has been worthily achieved as we have followed flickering lights in a dark hour. And may the Lord bless us and keep us, and make His face to shine upon us, and give us peace, peace in our own hearts, peace in this dear land of ours, peace throughout all the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1952

O THOU COMPANION OF THE PILGRIM YEARS, our help in ages past: With renewed powers and with restored souls, returning to the high tasks of this national chamber of deliberation we pause at the beginning of this session with a solemn sense of our own inadequacy. With the dim lamps of our devices we cannot find a sure and clear path through the tangled maze of this stricken generation. Be Thou the

guardian and the guide of the unbeaten way our feet must take in these looming months of destiny.

With tender sympathy for his grieving loved ones, we think today of one who occupied a place of leadership in this body, but who answers not as the roll is called. We are grateful for the record of his fervid patriotism and his utter devotion to the public trust committed to his hands, as with abounding energy he faced legislative tasks. Out of the silence of his absence may there come a warning voice to each of us, enmeshed and immersed in relentless duties: "In the midst of life we are in death." As we work while it is called day, may no cherished resentments, no camouflaged selfishness, no little loyalties, no ingrained prejudice, choke and clog the channels of our public service. O God, to whose kingdom the future belongs, use us as pioneers of a better habitation for humanity, for ourselves, and for all the peoples of the earth.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1952

O THOU GOD OF LOVE AND HOPE, through all the length of changing years Thy goodness faileth never. In a confused day, save us from any panic of spirit because we draw our inner strength from deep wells. May the highest truth illumine the nearest duty and holy aspirations transfigure the humblest task.

Enable, with the light of Thy wisdom and the strength of Thy might, those who in these fearful times have been entrusted with the stewardship of the national life. Help us to fill swift hours with mighty deeds, to bear the fret of care, the sting of criticism, the drudgery of unapplauded toil; to think truly, to act kindly, to play valiantly our part in the life of our time, to strike our blow for freedom and, keeping to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the Inner Light, to leave the world the better for our sojourn in it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1952

GOD OF ALL GRACE, through the lowly gateway of penitence at the day's beginning we would enter the inner chamber of peace where the harsh voices of the clamorous world are hushed, and where in the pavilion of prayer we face ourselves and Thee. Grant us to feel

the passion of a high resolve to cherish above all else the glorious destiny unto which Thou hast called us as a nation. Strengthen our hearts in the confidence that Thou hast appointed us for the protection of the weak, and in Thine eternal purpose hast formed this bulwark of freedom set between the seas not for ourselves alone, but for a healing ministry to all the world.

Make us such faithful servants of that human need and of that common good that we will fear neither the searching judgments of our fellow men nor the final verdict of that judge of all the earth, from whom no secrets are hid. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the kindly light that leads us on through the encircling gloom: Help us who grope in the darkness of earth's dim ways to remember that even the shadows themselves are born of light. As we face the tasks of another week, lift upon us the light of Thy countenance; may we be saved from despair by the hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

Even while we are spurred to fight with all our might against the present evil which threatens freemen everywhere, may we also be lured by the vision splendid of a coming good. Deliver us from political policies which are symptoms of spiritual disease. Give us courage and strength for the vast task of rebuilding the waste places of the earth, that needs to be dared if life for all men is to be made full and free. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1952

ETERNAL FATHER, we come to Thee at the noontide hour, when from the Nation's beginning our fathers have turned ascide to seek Thy face. Commissioned to be peacemakers for a war-torn world, we first need a peace within our own hearts far deeper than the world can give; for never does a new day find us fit for the highest service until we have cleansed our inner selves by communion with Thee. Write deep in our hearts the suffering and pain of shepherdless multitudes so wearied by the burden and by the horror and havoc of

these desperate days. Redeem our failures, pardon our shortcomings. Transform every task into a throne of service, and crown these days of labor with the benediction of Thy peace. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1952

O GOD, who commandest the morning, into whose merciful and guiding hand we commit ourselves and our work in confidence and calm, open our ears, we beseech Thee, to hear and heed the call of far horizons and the stirring trumpets of challenge sounding the advance to a new era for mankind. Make us alive and alert to the spiritual values which underlie all the struggle of these epic days. With a sense of empty futility we confess our utter inability to cope with this world situation without the divine undergirding. In these exhausting days, replenish our parched hearts from the secret springs of the water of life. Expand our understanding and our sympathy until the whole earth is our fatherland and all humanity our care. We ask it in the name of our Elder Brother. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1952

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD: As we bow in this quiet moment dedicated to the unseen and eternal, confirm, we beseech Thee, our abiding faith in those deep and holy foundations which the fathers laid, lest in foolish futility we attempt to build on sand, instead of rock.

We rejoice that in troubled times, when the things we hold nearest our hearts are threatened by sinister and ruthless forces, Thou dost raise up prophets of freedom who are the very incarnation of the principles of democracy and decency and justice. We thank Thee for the great captain of our times whose clarion voice we with the whole world will hear this day. We remember with gratitude that in days dense with darkness his words were as trumpets of hope, as with phrases that marched like armies he broke through the frozen paralysis of a nation and set it upon its feet, while the anonymous eagles of the air held back the threat to Christian civilization.

For the world's sake, to the Commonwealth for which he speaks, strengthen the cords which bind us, not only by a common language,

but also because we drink at common springs of culture and literature and Christian idealism and share a common loyalty to institutions which foster freedom of person and of speech and the royal dignity of the human spirit. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the voices of this vast and agitated world, save us from the tragedy of missing Thy call. In this solemn hour of the supreme test of America's faith, when determined foes deny and defy the very conceptions and aspirations which to us, nurtured in liberty, make life precious and sacred, may this Nation under God have a new birth of freedom. Grant unto us that greatness of spirit which shall match the stupendous patterns of this creative day. May we never hesitate when the choice is between honor and selfish calculation. Beyond the strategy of the global struggle may we see the depth and scope of this historic drama of the centuries, and may that vision turn its blood and sweat and tears into glory. We ask it in the ever-blessed Name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1952

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, in all the commotion and confusion of the bewildering present with its constant demands, we would turn aside for this dedicated moment to seek the quietness of Thy presence. In the secret of Thy pavilion we take refuge from the strife of tongues. By tasks too difficult for us we are driven unto Thee for strength to endure and wisdom to interpret rightly the signs of these trying times. In this hallowed Chamber of deliberation and decision, may Thy servants serve with fidelity and unblemished integrity the cause of our country and of our common humanity, and so help to build the City of God on the ruined wastes of this disturbed and disordered world. We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, as another day has climbed to noon, bowing at this wayside shrine of Thy grace we would lift our faces to that Light without which we walk in darkness. For these troublous times the margin our our inner strength seems often perilously low.

We stand in dire need of courage and fortitude and stability. Grant us, we beseech Thee, the grace of a quiet heart and of a humble mind.

Let no unguarded word of ours bruise the rightful self-respect of any traveler by our side. As we turn now to waiting tasks, may the love of dear ones, the confidence of those who believe in us, the spur of conscience, the commanding call of goodness be the white stars to lead us on. So may we follow the gleam of the Kindly Light, traveling without fear to meet the flaming of eternal dawn. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD OUR FATHER, Thy love alone is the flame by which we kindle the altar fires of our conquering hopes. Make us ever mindful that upon the free soil of this continent our fathers toiled to rear a house of faith hallowed by Thy name. May we know no glory but the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world our utmost service, unsullied by base motives of self-interest, as again with the golden gift of a new day at this white altar of devotion we pledge integrity of character and cleanness and unswerving firmness of purpose in the fulfillment of the high and holy cause as servants of the Republic, and of this torn and tortured world. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1952

O GOD OUR FATHER, to the waiting tasks of another week Thou hast brought us by Thy grace. To the high altar of Thy mercy we come, each with his private need which only Thou knowest. In Thee alone, in whom we live and move and have our being, we find the deep springs of the Spirit at whose living waters we may be so strengthened with might that, maintaining our integrity and fidelity in an evil time, we shall go forth to be in the world, but not of it. In the midst of all that saddens and perplexes in this difficult yet challenging day, give us an inner radiance. Send us out where sound the cries of class and race, not knowing that our faces shine but humbly glad that in a world that lieth in darkness we are called to be children of the light. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, with our burdened lives tense and strained in a violent world we seek that peace which is a gift of Thy grace to all those who yield their wills to Thy will, their minds to Thy truth, their hearts to Thy obedience. To us in Thy providence has been given a place of awesome responsibility in this supreme hour of the centuries. We would exercise that stewardship of power with anxious care and deep humility.

We come conscious that freedom's flags around the earth are weeping today at the passing of a knightly king, who was an emblem of the free world—in times of blood and tears sharing with his people the austerity and sacrifice, as palace and cottage stood together in defying the powers of darkness. God save the kingly qualities which he incarnated for the Commonwealth. And God bring to the victory of a just peace the holy cause of which that throne, never vacant, is an inspiring symbol—the common cause for which our own Nation has pledged its all that liberty may not perish from the earth. We ask it in the name of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whom alone we live and without whom all is vanity and vexation of spirit: In all our desperate need we turn to Thee, the living fountain of life. Pressed by the national and international problems which crowd our hours and cry for solution, we would keep clear in our vision and faith the eternal things amid the tempests of the temporal. We would be the instruments of Thy kingdom of life and love to be established on the ruins of the shattered empires of this world. Take us as we are, frail human creatures, insufficient for these terrific days, and by Thy power released in us send us forth to face the troubled world and all the tasks committed to our hands, knowing that, strengthened with might in the inner man, what we ought to do we can do and what we must suffer we can endure for the sake of justice and freedom in all the earth. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1952

FATHER OF MANKIND, to whom all souls are dear and whose tender mercies are over all Thy works: Before facing waiting tasks, we would bow at this our morning altar of prayer to ask for guidance and for strength. Save us, we beseech Thee, from all error, pride, and prejudice. In all our deliberations grant us that candor which is the high courage of the soul. Help us to find in each problem and perplexity the prelude to those larger understandings, which in today's desert of denials and betrayals of truth and freedom shall be as trees whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. Grant us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious yet demanding day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy marching truth. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1952

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just words do proceed: As the torch of a new day lights afresh the path of duty we bow before Thee in humility and hope. Through the lips that speak in this forum of freedom may there be heard by a listening world the solemn summons to men of good will, of all colors and all nations, to a new commonwealth of all peoples, in which power shall be administered as a sacred trust and dedicated to the common good.

In this creative hour of destiny, save us from surrendering to cynicism, because of rampant evil, and of being made men of little faith by those who desecrate the dignity of human life. Dedicate us anew to the yet unfinished task, that we may win a just peace for which brave men are giving their lives. And Thine shall be the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, in hours of exhausting strain which drain away our strength we give Thee thanks for the daily pause at this wayside well of peace and prayer. We are grateful for this white altar reared at the gates of the morning, which speaks to us ever of our final reliance

on those supreme spiritual forces which alone abide and on which our salvation in the end depends.

In these fateful days of decision, which will mold the future, save us from staining our own honor in any attempt to purchase a spurious peace. Prosper, we beseech Thee, all sincere efforts of those who speak for the nations, that there may be found a more excellent way, when in sharing all Thy sundered children may gain all in the fairer earth that our hands may help to fashion. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1952

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, we come conscious that our best contrivings and our wisest plans will stand but as mute monuments of futility in a valley of dry bones unless upon them all Thou shalt breathe the breath of life. If, chastened by Thy immutable laws, a shattered world is at last to leave behind mutual slaughter, exploitation, suspicion, and hatred and march together, no matter how long the way, toward a fairer earth in which nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall learn war any more, then only Thy pillar of cloud and of fire can lead to that golden era.

In this high hour when with all nations we stand in the valley of decision, with the solemn realization that of those to whom much has been given, much shall be required, anxious about the national welfare, we lift our fervent prayer: Send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us from the city of destruction; let them bring us to Thy holy hill of an abundant life and a just peace. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1952

OUR FATHER, who revealest Thyself in all that is true and pure and lovely, we beseech Thee to so strengthen our resistance to evil, so cleanse our hearts of impurities that they may be fitting audience chambers for Thy presence, knowing that it is the pure in heart who shall see God. O Thou who art life and in whom there is no darkness at all, help us so to fling open the windows of our lives and to lift its curtains that we may be flooded with Thy light.

We pause amid relentless duties to acknowledge our human frailties and to lean our weakness against the pillars of Thy almightiness.

Grant us wisdom, courage, and understanding adequate to meet the difficult demands of each recurring day. Make us worthy ministers of Him whose love alone can conquer hate. Heal our sorely wounded world. And may our own attitudes to our fellow members of Thy family help to break down the barriers to human brotherhood.

"Break every weapon forged in fires of hate;
Turn back the foes that would assail Thy gate;
Where fields of strife lie desolate and bare,
Take Thy sweet flowers of peace and plant them there."

Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, whose love for Thy children across all human barriers reaches to the ends of the earth: In the golden glory of a new day Thou grantest us the high privilege of faring forth to be laborers together with Thee in the coronation of goodness. We would offer ourselves as the instruments through which may be answered the petition of the prayer we bring: Thy kingdom come. We wait now for Thy benediction that we may face whatever the day brings, in the gladness of Thy guidance, in the joy of Thy service, and in the solemn realization that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

We pray for the leaders of the Nation in these tempestuous days, and especially those who serve in this body. Give them kind hearts, clear thought, and quiet faith. Among ourselves and in our dealing with all the peoples of the world, in nations great and small, may we be so transparently just and fair that falsehood and every evil that shuns the light may be banished by the truth which makes men free. We ask it in the name of that One who is the truth, and the way, and the life. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1952

OUR FATHERS' GOD, we lift to Thee grateful hearts for the national heritage that has come down to us, bought by other toils and by other tears than our own. For great character that has been woven into the fabric of the Republic, blessed be Thy name. Especially do we give Thee thanks for the unselfish service and the stainless record of that courageous leader whose crystal spirit, purity of integrity, and

calm sword were Thy instruments in laying the foundations of our state. As on this his natal day we cherish his deeds and recall his farewell warning words, O God of hosts, lest we forget, repeat in us in these testing days the undimmed faith which shone on his anxious countenance, lifted in an agony of prayer from crimsoned ground where patriots bled.

As in these tragic days Washington's spiritual sons are dying for his creed and ours on Korea's frozen fields, hold us fast to our high trust; drive us to our knees for the inner strength which steadied him whose name we reverence this day. We ask it in the name of the Lord whom he adored. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, help of the ages past, hope for the years to come: In the secret place of the Most High in the hush of this dedicated moment, closing the door upon the outer world with its tumultuous and unpredictable events, in the white light of Thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are, petty and proud creatures who too often seek their own wills and whims in spite of the polished courtesies and noble professions with which we come to Thee.

Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts from all defiling foulness and from the secret sin of pretense. In this great hour of human destiny deepen in us a sense of surpassing opportunity and of glorious mission to do our full part in averting a global catastrophe. Fit us to faithfully protect the Republic from outward aggression and from inner corruption and selfishness. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD, who has bidden the light of the day to shine out of the darkness of the night, we would still our hearts for this hallowed moment as we bow now for the benediction of Thy loving kindness in the morning; for new mercies each returning day hover around us while we pray.

Grant us, we pray, in all our duties Thy help and in all our perplexities Thy counsel. Thou knowest how we are tempted, the drain of our daily work and the limitations of our strength, and how

our yearnings after nobler life are so often frustrated by the down drag of a cynical and covetous world about us. Direct us to the sources of moral energy. Grant us this day the grace to live on the altitudes of our aspirations. Save us from false choices as we face this shattered earth, and guide our hands and minds to heal and bind and build and bless. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, in this still moment, pausing reverently at this altar of prayer, make us vividly aware of Thy divine invasion through all the areas of our yearning lives. Give us the grace of hospitality to the highest. As citizens of a world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation. May the poisoning evils which now blight the earth not devastate our own inner lives, subduing us to its low standards, confusing us by its chaos, or crushing our faith under its tragedy. Clothed in the undefiled garments of love's pure vestment, humbly may we walk with Thee in white as in the spirit of the Master we face the infinite pathos of this troubled world we fain would serve before we fall on sleep. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1952

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, in a world swept by violent forces with which, unaided, we cannot cope, Thou only art our help and our defense amid mortal woes prevailing.

Fronting the clamant duties of this new week, steady our spirits with a realization of untapped power available to servants of Thy will, if only they go quietly and confidently about their appointed tasks. In this high hour of human destiny solemnized by the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught, give us the strength and stamina in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good will, determined to open the gates of a new life for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1952

O GOD, infinite in mercy, love, and power, we turn unfilled to Thee. For the beauty which gilds the earth, for the love which hallows our homes, for the joy which springs from work well done, we thank Thee, the source of all goodness and gladness.

At this altar of Thy grace we pause, with tasks waiting, lest with the light shining clear we turn our back upon it. If in our frantic seeking for satisfactions and solutions we find all except Thee, we have nothing but vanity and our spirits remain still famished and athirst. To these Thy servants who, in the ministry of public service, have been called by their counsel to help lead the peoples of the earth in these perplexed days, give a right judgment in all things. Grant them the grace both to will and to do those things which are good and acceptable in Thy sight. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1952

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, early in the morning our song of faith shall rise to Thee. Grant us the vision splendid, that we may toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal.

In this national forum, with all its divergent human interests, we would rear an altar where a constant sense of eternal values may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good. Only when our outlook is cleansed and corrected by far horizons can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting. And so like tillers of the soil who stand reverently, with bowed heads, listening to the music of holy bells, we, too, would be strengthened with might in the inner man. Send us forth with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world with a tranquility that is strength and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1952

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GLORY, with contrite hearts turning from earth's vain pomp and show, trusting only in Thy mercy would we seek Thy face. Replenish us, we beseech Thee, with Thy sustaining and restraining grace as our judgments weigh vast issues and our minds face tangled problems.

We are conscious of a listening world, hopeful in its agony, as in these Halls of State is being so largely designed the global shape of things to come. In all the deliberations begun this day, keep our motives clean, our vision clear, our patriotism undefiled, our speech guarded, our appraisals fair, and our consciences unbetrayed. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1952

O GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee Thou hast planted within us. As in the heat and burden of this epochal day we are called to serve the Nation, and all humanity, lead us, for Thy name's sake, to the abiding springs of fresh hope and confidence for a better tomorrow, a new faith in Thy goodness, and in the unrealized possibilities of Thy erring children, in spite of the stupid folly by which they have devastated the good earth Thou hast given, and marred the costly works of their own hands.

We pray for fidelity not to shirk the issues of these momentous days. Where our deeds can help to make this a fairer world, where our words can keep despondent men on their feet, where our prayers can hasten the coming of the social order, in which Thy will shall be done among men, let us speak and act and pray. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, as noontide marks the hurrying day and our words are hushed to silence as we bow in Thy presence, our hearts and minds are strengthened and cheered by the glorious thought that midst all life's changing scenes we are with Thee.

We beseech Thee, purge us of low desire. Lift us to high resolve. May we hush earth's strident noises that we may hear Thee and, hearing, go forth with obedient hearts to this anguished generation as living echoes of Thy voice. In these times that are trying men's souls, preserve us from minding and magnifying little slights and stings, or giving them. Keep us calm in temper, clear in mind, forgiving and forbearing in spite of ingratitude or even treachery. In this solemn hour of human destiny enable us to perform faithfully and well what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy,

and to walk humbly with Thee our God. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1952

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whom alone is the strength of our hearts and the hope of our world, we come in our noontide fellowship of prayer, not so much to seek Thee as to open our fallible lives in penitence and need to Thy waiting strength. Make our own lives, we pray Thee, quarries out of which stones for the new temple of humanity may be fashioned.

In these days of great peril and critical decisions, as against the powers of darkness Thou art unloosing the fateful lightning of Thy terrible, swift sword; save us from all policies whose reaping will be another harvest of horror for our children's children. Give us to know clearly and to follow faithfully the things that belong to our peace and to the peace of the whole world. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1952

OUR FATHER, again through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we would face the new day with a vivid sense that we labor always in Thy presence. May this consciousness lift our duty above drudgery. Even in the heat and burden of noonday's tasks and of evening's weariness, let not our strength fail nor our vision fade. Make us patient and considerate one with another in the fret and jar of human contacts, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way. Give us, O Lord, a reverence for truth, a deep desire to think and speak truly, and a passion to hasten the day when the rule of justice and love shall engirdle the earth. We ask it in that Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world where all without is change and decay and where within is fear of failure and of the unknown future, at the springs of Thy abiding presence we would keep alive our faith in values that are permanent and that cannot be shaken.

For this still moment may we hush all other sounds save the divine knocking and the entreating voice which says: "If any man will open the door, I will come in." We know, O Master Divine, that when our heart's door swings on its hesitant hinges and Thou dost enter, those things which are unlovely and unclean cannot stay to embitter and pollute. Help us to walk and work in His overshadowing presence, in the peace that the world giveth not, in the charity that thinketh no evil, in the good will that bridges all chasms, and when the sunset comes may we face its summons with a conscience void of offense toward Thee and our fellow men. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, who art in heaven and on the earth and in all Thy works, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues to commune with Thee, the source of all goodness and beauty and truth. Thou hast called us whose lives pass swiftly as a watch in the night to labor with Thee in the unfolding purpose of the ages.

Enrich our attitudes and actions, we pray, with that love for our fellows without whose golden gleam all that we say, though we speak with the tongues of men and of angels, is but as tinkling cymbals. Mastered by that love which seekest not its own, but whose passion is the coming of Thy universal kingdom, may the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be this day, and always, acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast ordained that in the leadership of the nations the care of the many must rest upon the shoulders of the few. We beseech Thee, give understanding, humility, and charity to those who in Thy name and for the Nation's sake are entrusted here, in this Chamber of legislation, with the power of governance. Save us from inner friction, from narrow partisanship, from the pursuit of selfish, personal goals which weaken the influence and impact upon a broken world of this land of liberty which may be, in Thy providence, if it keeps the faith, the last best hope for the healing

of the nations. When day by day we have done faithfully the work Thou hast given us to do, in quietness and in confidence may we leave the result to Thy unerring judgment, knowing that in the annals of the centuries even the wrath of man may be made to praise Thee. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world that lieth in darkness, swept by fitful winds of despair and doubt, we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within is not dimmed. Make our spirits great enough for these great days. Upon our feverish lives drop the still dews of Thy quietness, that in simple trust and deeper reverence we may be found steadfast in an unstable day, always abounding in the work Thou givest us to do, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

"Thy love hath led us in the past.
In this free land, by Thee, our lot is cast.
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay,
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way."

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own understanding we would lift the difficult decisions of the public service into Thy holy light. As those set aside to prescribe for the ills of an ailing social order, we pray that Thou wilt first cleanse our own lives from moral pollution and mental darkness.

Turning from the dizzy world where truth so often eludes us along tangled paths, we would seek at this altar of faith the truth about ourselves, knowing that Thou canst not use us to change the crooked things that blight the earth unless our own hearts are homes of sincerity, integrity, and purity. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Make us such men that Thou mayest speak to us and that to this bewildered generation we may be the broadcasters of Thy voice and will. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1952

O LORD OUR GOD, whose love is so gracious and tender that it passeth understanding, we bow before Thee in gratitude at the remembrance of Thy mercies. Bring us, we beseech Thee, into the quiet sanctuary of Thy presence that we may be still and know that Thou art God.

In spite of all the evil that stalks the earth with shackles and chains, we thank Thee for human kindness, for hope that shines undimmed, for faith that is dauntless, and for all the qualities of high personality that cannot be bought. Let Thy beauty, O Lord, be upon us, that our spirits may be radiant as in Thy strength we face the perplexities of these troubled days. Use us, we pray Thee, as ambassadors of good will. At the end of the day, without stumbling or stain, may we be able to say, I have kept the faith. In the Redeemer's Name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1952

ALMIGHTY AND MOST GRACIOUS GOD, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and whose goodness is new every morning and fresh every evening: We bow before Thee in contrition and gratitude. In Thy light we would find wisdom for each perplexity, strength for each testing situation, safe guidance through every peril, and courage for every emergency.

We thank Thee for our ability to respond to good impulses. Incline our hearts to obey every beckoning finger which invites our souls to larger life. Make us eager to translate the glowing impulse into the worthy deed. Give us a divine discontent with low levels of life.

We bring our Nation to Thy throne. Protect, preserve, and unify our people. May we see Thee as the guardian of our Republic and the keeper of our destiny. In this time on ages telling, endue with wisdom our leaders. And grant that this Nation, made and preserved by Thy power, may be a channel of blessing to all nations of the earth. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, who hast set in man's heart the impulse to build altars of sacrifice and temples of praise: We thank Thee for this wayside shrine of prayer. Thou hast placed us in a world of beauty and wonder. May we find joy in the loveliness of nature, the strength of friendship, the conquest of difficulty, and the satisfactions of service.

Let Thy spirit rise upon us with the gladness of morning, that in Thy light we may see light. May we discern clearly the illusions of transitory glitter and the abiding worth of faith and hope and love. Teach us to set a watch upon our lips, that the words we speak may be words of healing and strength, understanding, and encouragement. Make us swift to appreciate and slow to blame. Strengthen our arms as in all the world we fight for righteousness and justice and truth. We ask it in the name of that One who is the Life and the Truth and the Way. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1952

O GOD, the might of them that put their trust in Thee, amid all the mortal ills that prevail and the subtle dangers that beset us, save us from the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own wisdom and our own strength. In a world so uncertain about many things, we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but Thee. The din of confusing words assails our ears from an agitated world. Grant us a deep inner calm, undisturbed by any outer commotion. Give us courage to seek the truth honestly and with reverent determination to follow humbly the Kindly Light that leads us on.

Thou hast created us so that even our mortal bodies are to be Thy temples. Grant that the holy places of our inner lives may harbor nothing unworthy of our highest and best—

> "The ruins of our soul repair,
> And make our heart a house of prayer."

In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1952

O GOD OUR FATHER, as we come once more to this daily pavilion of prayer we would fling open the shuttered windows of our darkened lives to the effulgent light of Thy presence. Show us, we pray Thee, Thy glory. Without Thy guidance our wisdom is but folly.

In the heat and burden of the day save us from being embittered by ingratitude, pettiness, or meanness, and from all cowardly expediency in this global battle between slavery and freedom. May we be satisfied with nothing less than our best, however difficult and testing the future may be. May the voice of the past warn us of paths which lead to national disaster. May the voice of the present call us to be prophets of good will in today's crisis, and may the voice of the future challenge us with a golden day when earth's dismal deserts shall blossom into gladsome gardens. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast made all the highways of our heatrs to lead to Thy face; Thou hast so formed our being that its deeper cravings are satisfied only in Thee. Help us this noontide to turn our faces in Thy shining, O Thou sun of our help and strength.

We confess that in the conceit of our own self-sufficiency too often we have turned, with our burning thirsts, to the broken cisterns of worldly wisdom and of our own sophisticated cleverness. May those who here serve the public weal be wise interpreters of Thy eternal law, the brave spokesmen of Thy will and of Thy truth which sets men free. And, above all, teach us the vanity and futility of any quest for salvation which leaves ourselves unchanged. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, whose goodness is ever before us and whose mercy has followed us all our days: We come beseeching Thee that Thou mayest invade our hearts with a sense of quietness and lead us to the green pastures of Thy peace. We thank Thee for the sacrament of beauty which is Thy handiwork, the loveliness on the face

of Nature now springing to newness of life, and the beauty hidden in the heart of man.

Cleanse our hearts of all stains, remove every root of bitterness. May the beauty of the Lord be upon us, delivering us from ugliness in thought, in speech, and in conduct. With Thy benediction upon us may we enter into the duties of this day, on our way attended by the vision splendid. We ask it in the name of Him who is the fairest among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1952

GOD OF THE NATIONS, by whose kindly providence we are sharers of the rich and dearly bought benefits which are ours in this land of freedom: We pray for Thy continued blessing upon our Republic. Make her, we pray Thee, more and more a nation which deserves Thy blessing. We thank Thee for the wisdom and the vision of the founding fathers; for national leaders who by the will of the people exercise power for them and not over them; for the fidelity of common people in obscure places; and for the patriotic heroism of our sons now defending our liberties on far fields of conflict as they front the powers of slavery and darkness.

Strengthen our determination to stem the tide of an aggression without pity or conscience. Make us worthy of our great heritage. In these decisive days for the whole world, give us a new sense of national destiny, deliver us from all pride and arrogance, and inspire the citizens of our free land to make this Nation, under Thee, as great in spirit as she is mighty in power. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1952

O GOD, who turnest the shadows of night into morning, we bow in reverence in this hallowed Chamber of debate and decision. We come as perplexed pilgrims of the night, seeking direction, and with the prayer upon our lips "Lead kindly Light amid the encircling gloom." Help us, we pray Thee, to weave some precious thing into the fabric of this day's toiling. On the stern and hard anvil of these desperate times, shape us into instruments fit for Thy use.

We lift our hearts to Thee in gratitude for our heritage in this land, throned in glory between the seas, rich in resources, privilege, and enlarging freedom. Give wisdom, we beseech Thee, to those who plan the Nation's policies, clarity of thought and integrity of character to those who fashion the ideals of the people, and strength of purpose to those leaders of the Commonwealth, who above all things endeavor to lift the spiritual levels of the Republic's life. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1952

ETERNAL FATHER, fountain of our being, light of all our seeing: For the beauty of the earth, robed in the blooming garb of spring, and for the tint of the tiniest flower, we raise our noontime hymn of praise as we ask for Thy sustaining grace for the duties of a new week.

Solemnize, we pray Thee, our hearts with reverential and penitential awe as in these holy days over which is a shadow of a cross we follow the wounded footsteps of man's best man, love's best love, as in lowly pomp He rides on into His nation's crowded capital. Teach us anew, as we look on Him in whose face Thy glory is revealed, the pretense of pride, the hollowness of selfish ambition, the vanity of power, the deceit of riches, and the disillusionment of fame.

> "O Thou whose dreams enthrall the heart, ride on!
> Ride on, till tyranny and greed are evermore undone;
> In mart and court and parliament the common good increase
> Till men at last shall ring the bells of brotherhood and peace."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1952

O LORD OUR GOD, whose sheltering wings protect Thy children, whose service is perfect freedom; we remember with gratitude the cloud of witnesses about us, the glorious company who in other times that tried men's souls have served the Nation faithfully and well. They have bequeathed to us the heritage of freedom. As in these decisive days we carry the torch of enlightenment or wear the cloak of privilege or stand in places of honor, may our purposes be ribbed

with steel to dedicate our enlightenment, our privilege, and our honors to the welfare of all mankind.

Forgive us the broken vow, the unkept promise, the unfulfilled purpose. And, when the shadows fall and evening comes, may we greet the unseen with a cheer, knowing that we have kept the faith. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1952

GRACIOUS GOD OUR FATHER, whose still, small voice invites us to turn aside from the feverish ways of the world and whose tender love bids us find our rest in Thee: We are conscious, as we bow at this altar of Thy grace, that if we live a life of prayer Thou art present everywhere. Amid the draining duties of these demanding days, may Thy rest flow around our restlessness, may our jaded spirits be refreshed and our souls restored. With contrition we acknowledge that we have fallen short of our high calling. When we glimpse the opulent riches that Thou dost offer we stand ashamed at our spiritual poverty.

As public servants, make us worthy of the Nation's trust, in these days so fraught with destiny. On the stepping stones of our dead selves may we mount to newness of life and to the singing Easter of the soul. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1952

ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL FATHER, we would begin the day with Thee, conscious of our helplessness and of Thy supreme and sovereign power. As Thou hast given us life, so we implore Thee, strengthen us to regard it as a stewardship and make us ready and willing for whatever service Thou wouldst have us to perform.

We thank Thee for the sacrament of April beauty, for the glory of common things and the light of heaven upon our daily path. Help us so to live that we may find eternity in the midst of time, and that, walking the lighted way with pure intent to push out the boundaries of Thy kingdom of love, we may hasten the universal reign of the Risen Redeemer on the earth. This Holy Week, realizing that a crown of thorns may glow with a splendor surpassing

kingly coronets, we would bow at this altar set up in the midst of our national life, as from our hearts we say,

"Nearer my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, in the afterglow of Easter, sharing the Risen Life, may our words and deeds proclaim our creed that life is stronger than death; that love is stronger than hate; that truth is stronger than error; and that always behind death's husks tremble the seeds of birth. In all the contradictions and confusions of these days, help us to hold that faith, and to hold fast, in the sure confidence that the "third day" comes.

"O God, we pray for this great land of ours,
Founded by men who put their trust in Thee.
Help us again to find the mighty powers
Of truth and faith and hope to set us free.

Inspire our leaders, give us grace to find
The people who can steer the ship of state
In troubled waters, men who are not blind
Through pettiness, self-interest, or hate.

And may we pledge, as statesmen long ago,
Our sacred honor, lives, and fortunes, too,
To make our country free—for well we know
That freedom only comes through serving Thee."

We ask it in the name of the living Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the turmoil of life's busy ways we thank Thee for moments of quietness and of insight. We would be still and know that Thou art God, and in that steadying consciousness may our inner eyes behold new vistas and new perspectives.

We praise Thee, O God, for all who create beauty in the world. We acknowledge our debt of gratitude to musicians, whose harmonies refresh the heart, to artists and sculptors who give enduring expression to fair visions of loveliness; we pay our tribute to those who create better social attitudes and whose passion is to lift the levels of human living above woe and misery. May we be numbered

among those who help bridge the gaps made by prejudice and suspicion, who heal the wounds of man's inhumanity to man, who, by the contagion of our own spirits, draw men together in the fair realm of good will and mutual helpfulness. Open our ears and eyes that we may hear voices in bushes that burn with Thee, find sermons in stones and good in everything. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1952

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee Thou hast planted within us. Open our eyes to see Thee, not just out on the far rim of the universe, but in human love which hallows our lives and which at best bears witness to Thee. Strengthen us with the assurance that, at last, love never faileth and alone can heal the hurt of the world. Conscious of Thy overshadowing presence, we pray for fidelity not to shirk the issues of these momentous days nor to be lured by apeasement or compromise. Committing our souls unto Thee, who knowest the way we take, bring us forth as gold tried in the fire. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1952

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, unto the hills of Thy grace and glory we lift the expectant eyes of our faith, for from Thee cometh our help. We are grateful that the light of heaven falls upon our daily path and that in the beauty of common things and in the miracle of the springtime we may partake of the holy sacrament of Thy presence. In these days when searing hate is doing its worst to separate Thy children on the earth, when with cynical schemes evil men lusting for power hide behind the refuge of lies, we thank Thee for men and women of good will under all skies, the saving salt of a tortured world, upon whose integrity of character and understanding sympathy with other nations and races the hopes of tomorrow's world rest. In this Capital City, set upon a hill, in the ministry of public affairs, may the representatives of the people, who counsel together in this hallowed Chamber, be true servants of the common good and forerunners of Thy kingdom's coming. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, as noontide marks the hurrying day and our words are hushed to silence for this dedicated moment, we would bathe our hearts and minds in the glorious thought that amidst all life's changing scenes we are with Thee. Purge us of low desire, lift us to high resolve. In this great hour of human destiny deepen in us the sense of surpassing opportunity and of glorious mission to do our full part in averting a global catastrophe, as our willful world is given this one last chance. May it be in Thy providence that our America, desiring nothing but a just peace for herself and for all the world and praying, "God mend our every flaw," may come to the kingdom for such a time as this. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1952

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who amidst the shifting sands of time standeth sure: Like men who turn from dusty toil to crystal streams, so from the perplexities and the imperfections which crowd the common days we lift our soiled and strained faces to Thee. As we pause in reverent silence, let this high place of governance, so great a factor in tomorrow's pattern for all men, become the audience chamber of Thy presence. Because there is no solution of the world's ills save as it springs from the hearts of men, we pray for ourselves. Cleanse Thou our hearts by Thy grace, feed our minds with Thy truth, guide our feet in Thy paths, teach us that in Thy will is our peace. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, for a hallowed moment we step aside from the crowded highway, with its clamant voices, to seek the garden of the soul; that we may become conscious of Thee, knowing that we have been assured that if with all our hearts we truly seek Thee, we shall surely find Thee. Often when we think Thee far away Thou art by our side, unrecognized. Only when our vision is cleared and corrected by far horizons can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting.

Humble us and forgive us, that we may enter into unity with Thee and in some measure may become the instruments of Thy peace. Set us at our tasks with a strength that is not our own, with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world, with an unruffled kindness which is strength, and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1952

GOD OUR FATHER, whom we seek in all our need and through all the mystery and perplexity of life; without whom we cannot live bravely or well: Show us Thy will for our individual lives in all the maze of paths our uncertain feet may take. And, as we draw nearer to Thee now in prayer, do Thou graciously draw near unto us until, at the beginning of another week's demanding tasks, we become more sure of Thee than of midday light. Come to us in the common life that entangles us, meet us in the thorny questions which confront us, and, though the hope of world-wide brotherhood often seems forlorn, may we be found ready to lead it. Without stumbling and without stain may we follow the gleam until the day is ended and our work is done. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1952

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, as we bow in this quiet moment dedicated to the unseen and eternal, confirm our abiding faith, we beseech Thee, in those deep and holy foundations which the fathers laid, lest in foolish futility, in this desperate and dangerous day, we attempt to build on sand instead of rock. In a day of aggression and of violence, of swift and shifting change, when the angry passions of men are bursting anew into devouring flame, enable Thy servants in the discharge of great responsibilities of public trust to be calm and confident, wise and just; their hope in Thee as an anchor sure and steadfast, their faith unshaken that out of the ruin and wreck of today Thou art making all things new. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1952

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking, have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmities; strengthen us in all noble impulses and daily increase in us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and knowledge and true godliness. Enrich our attitudes and actions with that love for our fellows, across all boundaries, without whose golden gleam all we say, though we speak with the tongues of men and of angels, is but as tinkling cymbals. Dowered with privileges as no other nation, may our high estate be to us Thy call to protect the weak and exploited, that through the potent ministry of our dear land all peoples of the earth may be blessed. In the dear Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the new week and for the new day bathed in the glory of this flowering month of May; for the dawn orchestra of birds' songs, for the fragrance and tint of the tiniest flower, for the mystic beauty of lights and shadows weaving patterns of splendor across the verdant fields and templed hills. Through it all and in the laughter and tears of our fellow pilgrims, and in our own souls, tune our hearts to hear Thy voice, that we may know we are not alone.

Grant us vistas of the strength that waits to be added to our weakness, for the great enterprise of world brotherhood committed to our hands. So gird the lives of Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs that they may make decisions greatly, walk on the high levels of noble purpose and, with kindling sympathies as wide as human need, in all things quit themselves like men. In the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1952

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art the fountain of all grace, the source of all goodness, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and of nations: We beseech Thee, endue with Thy wisdom our fallible minds. We tremble at the possibilities of evil which lurk in our own hearts. Set our feet with steadfast purpose, day by day, upon

the glowing pathways of righteous duty and selfless service. Open our eyes to the futility of changing maps without changing men. In spite of suspicions, animosities, disappointments, and disillusionments which plague the councils of men, gird our hearts to seek peace and pursue it, that the sadly sundered family of mankind may at last be bound by golden cords of understanding fellowship around the feet of the one God. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1952

ETERNAL FATHER, ere our wistful yearnings break into the faltering words of our stammering tongues Thou seest our deepest needs; Thou knowest that as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so thirst our souls after Thee.

Save us from presumptuous pride that feigns an understanding that it does not possess. Open our inner eyes that with all our seeing we may not miss the beauty and strength of a spiritual world, more real even than the dust beneath our feet or the feathered songsters that wing their trackless way above our heads. As those into whose unworthy hands has been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, may the thoughts of our minds and the sympathies of our hearts, the words of our lips, and the decisions of our deliberations be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, and be as trees whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1952

O GOD OUR FATHER, the sky and the earth show Thy handiwork. Thou has taught us to love beauty in form and color—in the glory of the garden, in the tint of the tiniest flower, in the glint of the bird's wing, and in the leafy loveliness of trees that lift their arms to pray. O God of growing things, who doth walk in gardens and hath placed us in a world so fair, coming through the arbor gate of the holiness of beauty, may we be partakers of the beauty of holiness. In the mystic wonder of resurrected nature when from sky to sod the earth's unfolding blossom smells of God, as we read eternal beauty's shining word that God alone can write, may our own lives be as a watered garden wherein shall spring into loveliness the flowers of grace and the fruits of the spirit. In the ripening

experiences of the lengthening years may it be said of us, "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters whose leaves shall be for the shelter of the helpless and for the healing of the nations." Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, to the white altar of Thy grace in the brightness of this new morning we come, bowing in our ignorance and weakness, praying for wisdom and strength to face with courage the somber specters that stalk the darkened earth. Guide us, O Thou great Jehovah, in these chaotic days, as we seem to wander between two worlds, one dead—the world of force and ruthless competition; the other a world of understanding and cooperation, powerless to be born until ancient feuds and fears are melted in the refining fires of a common concern and destiny for all mankind. Make us great enough for these great days. Join us to those under all skies who labor to bring sense and system to this disordered globe. And grant that our eyes may yet look upon a world when all men's good be each man's rule, through all the circle of the golden years. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 19, 1952

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, above all the commotion and confusion of the busy present with its bewildering demands, we would turn aside now, at the beginning of another week, to seek the quietness of Thy presence. Inspired by the example of the Nation's founders, we pause at midday to lift our thoughts above all pressing cares and public concerns into the contemplation of Thy infinite calm. Since it is of Thy mercy that still another day is added to our lives, wilt Thou sanctify our work; let no unhallowed words pollute the tongues which Thou hast made to praise and bless Thee, no evil deeds defile the bodies which Thou hast taught us are the temples of Thy presence.

In these hallowed halls, where Thy servants stand to speak for the people, may they serve with fidelity the cause of our Nation and of our common humanity and so help to build on the ruined wastes of this disturbed and disordered world the city of our God. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, in a violent world filled with sights that sadden and problems that perplex, may our hearts be strengthened by the realization that ours is also a time of splendid challenge, bright with promise as we stand at the portals of beckoning tomorrows. May the crashing of outworn things that are falling to earth not hide from our eyes the glory of a new era struggling to birth.

We give thanks with humble yet kindling hearts that we are privileged to live and give in such a time. If this fallible flesh of ours, hemmed by foes, should fear or falter, keep us firm and steadfast as we put on the whole armor of faith and hope and love. May we play our full part as Thy faithful servants in history's crowning hour. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, open to us, we pray, Thee, the gates of the morning as we bow here at this wayside shrine of Thy grace, for these are troublous times; the margin of our inner strength seems often perilously low. We stand in dire need of courage and fortitude and stability. Grant us now the grace of a quiet heart and a humble mind. For the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of all tyranny, for the opportunity still to be free souls, for the redemption of democracy from its failures, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in all the earth, we lift our hearts to Thee, O God of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, mid all the traffic of life's ways, bowing at this daily altar of devotion we would lift our souls into the light of Thy presence. From the framing of laws and the forming of policies holding in their reach the woe or weal of our Nation and of the world, we would turn to an inner sanctuary where the world's angry voices die and Thou alone art real. In these times that try our souls and as we gird the might of the Nation to defend our threatened liberties, and even as we say to aggressive tyranny "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther," we pray that we may take care to strengthen the spiritual foundations of our democracy, knowing that

without Thee we build on sinking sand. O hear us when we cry to Thee to make us fit to set men free. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD, source of all love and wisdom, to whom the distinctions and differences which so often divide us and loom so large in our eyes are but as dust in the balance, brushing aside all illusions and trivialities, grant us now a sense of unity of motive and of purpose amidst all diversities of thought. Our mercy is so soon exhausted, but Thy mercy to all mankind is like the wideness of the sea. Our forgiveness so quickly turns to retaliation, but Thy forgiveness endures even to 70 times 7.

Help us this day to regard one another with the sympathy and understanding of those who face a common destiny, as we dwell together under a divine fatherhood. May we be conscious of the fallible elements in ourselves, even as we deal with our fellows in all the tangled questions which together we share. Amid all the losses which need must come with the corroding years, may we never lose our self-respect nor forfeit the confidence of those who trust us now because we trust in Thee. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 26, 1952

O THOU GOD who art the hope of all the ends of the earth: Amid the tragedy of a broken world, at noonday facing the tasks of a new week, in deep humility of spirit we would ascend the altar stairs of this hallowed shrine of our faith in spiritual verities. Before we talk of the Nation's good we would lift our needy hearts to the Nation's God, for in Thee we trust.

Grant unto us that greatness of vision which shall match the vast patterns of this creative day. Save us from setting narrow limits upon our responsibility to our fellow men. May no pettiness in our patriotism rob us of the ruling passion to sacrifice all for the common good. May we never hesitate when the choice is between honor and self-interest. Bring us, we pray Thee, to an enduring peace, when justice shall roll down like the waters and righteousness as a mighty stream. We ask it in that Name above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, in this hour of the world's deep distress we turn to Thee, mindful of our insufficiency. We are but broken reeds, lashed by wild winds that mock our boasting pride uttered in days of calm. The arm of flesh is futile. Thine alone, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory. Thou only art as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. We are humbly grateful that our America still stands with lamp held aloft, a beacon of freedom for all the earth.

Send us forth to waiting tasks, conscious of a great heritage worth living and dying for, and with a deathless cause that no weapon that has been formed can defeat. We lift our noonday prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1952

O THOU GOD OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, we would constantly search our own hearts, even as we mobilize our national might to keep pagan powers of darkness from strangling our liberties and from accomplishing their evil design of enslaving the whole world. Fervently we pray that we may see clearly that this godless growth of tyranny with its false promises feeds upon hunger and misery and exploitation. Give us to understand that its ominous spread has been made possible partly by the low spiritual vitality of democracy, by the relaxing of loyalty to the Christian principles and verities on which freedom's very breath depends. With the anxious world listening as we here talk about defense and plan for more and more arms to stay aggression, help us never to be unmindful—lest we forget that the real and ultimate battle must be fought deep in the hearts of men, where burn the fires of faith. Facing boldly the causes of seething discontent of moral decay and mental confusion, may we march into the new world that is to be to fulfill the fair promises to humanity which slave systems make but to break. So may we keep the faith. We ask it in the name of that One who is the truth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, in the beauty of the world we find Thy footprints leading on to hilltops of vision; in the goodness of human hearts, like fragrant lilies, midst the murky swamps of evil, Thy holiness breathes upon us; in truth, though crushed to earth for an hour, yet ever rising triumphantly over falsehood and pretense, Thou dost put into our hands the keys for every prison house of the spirit. May all the factors of destiny be weaving in us the tapestry of a great character strong enough to stand the strain of these testing days. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1952

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, we turn to Thee sorely perplexed with our own thoughts, often confused and confounded by the very vastness of the human problems confronting us. Save us, we beseech Thee, from the despair of a defeating cynicism which denies that there is any road to the fair city of our dreams. We confess that our lives are so cluttered with the trivial and the trifling that too often mistaken magnitudes keep us from fixing our minds on the great issues that at last prove to be the factors of our destiny. We ask but for light enough for the next step ahead and for the faith and fortitude to take it boldly. Send us forth on our way attended by the vision splendid, grateful even for night skies that bring out the clear stars of faith, for hard tasks that develop the sinews of strength, and for futile quests which drive us back unfilled to Thee. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, with the deep desire that all our deliberations on this high hill of the Nation's life should be begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we would enter this forum of the people's hopes through the gateway of prayer. Here may our faulty perspectives be corrected by vast horizons. Kindle on the altar of our hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world, that in its white heat shall be consumed every grosser passion. Serving here in the homeland, make us knights of a holy crusade, worthy to be reckoned with those who on land and sea and in the air are sacrific-

ing their all to roll back the tide of violence from the souls of men. On crimson fields they fight for ordered government, just laws, and the sacredness of human personality. We here remember them and pray that to us strength may be given to follow in their train. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1952

LORD OF ALL BEING, whose glory flames from sun and star and on the good earth: We bring to Thee our parched souls that they may be restored by the riches of Thy grace. As we come to this oasis of prayer set down in the midst of demanding days, lead us beside the still waters and to green pastures of spiritual apprehension.

O Thou from whom in vain we try to flee, grant us now, in a violent world, a saving sense of inner quiet and serenity. The futile years have taught us, sometimes with bitter lessons, that the things for which we greedily grasp, the bauble of fame, the glitter of gold, the allurements of sense and the bread of pleasure are but vanity and vexation of spirit. And now, this morning hour, with the unsatisfied desires of our seeking hearts we turn in contrition to Thee. Like flowers in June gardens uplifted to the sun, like tranquil lakes that mirror the eternal stars, so would we lift our yearning souls to Thee, our light, our life, our help, and our hope. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD OUR FATHER, amid the bewilderments of these confused and chaotic days upon the earth, uncertain and troubled about so many things, we must be sure of Thee, else we are lost and undone. The circumstances of our times are so appalling and dismaying that the resources of our souls are utterly inadequate unless Thou replenish them, O Thou shepherd of our pilgrim days in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted. In this creative hour of destiny save us from surrendering to cynicism because of entrenched evil and of being made men of little faith by human folly.

Turning in dismay from a future without good will, give us pure hearts and clean hands that we may lift up our America to Thee, not as a chalice of privilege and of pride but as a channel of mercy and help and healing, that all the ends of the earth may be blessed. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1952

O GOD, eternal, immortal, invisible, we would hush our busy thoughts to silence as we wait for Thy word. Make us vividly aware that Thou art the living God who didst not cease to guide and to speak when a holy book was closed centuries ago, but who today is the Kindly Light for those who will follow and who today is speaking to those who will listen. While we wrestle with the questions that have to do with the necessities for a changed world, help us to be solemnly conscious that we ourselves need to be transformed, and that unchecked selfishness can and will wreck any radiant social scheme for the rebuilding of our torn and tortured earth.

In the midst of our political, diplomatic, and economic plans and policies, give us to see the necessity of changed hearts, changed desires, changed motives, and changed objectives, if Thy kingdom is to come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask it in the name of the Master of us all who, as He fronted the deepest needs of the individual and of society, declared, "You must be changed." Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1952

ETERNAL GOD, who committest to us the solemn trust of life: Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and the humblest work will shine and the roughest places be made plain. Grant us the grace of humility in all dealings with our fellow men. Deliver us from unlovely self-conceit. Make us forgiving and forbearing, gentle with others' failings and grateful for others' goodness to us. May we remember always that the time for loving and serving is so short, as swift to its close ebbs out life's little day. Teach us by honest toil to serve faithfully our day and generation, not asking for reward or applause but only for the assurance that we do the things that please Thee. So upon our quickly passing days may there rest the benediction of a faith that dares and a service that cares and shares, until by Thy grace we find ourselves by hands familiar welcomed into the Father's house. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1952

DEAR GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, whate'er our name or sign, under the canopy of Thy goodness and mercy at the beginning of a new week we pause to seek Thy face. Before we talk to one another about our homes, our Nation, and our world, we would listen for Thy voice as with silenced hearts we wait for Thy word. Gather our wandering minds and our wayward spirits into the secret place of Thy presence, that we may have ears to hear those voices which tell us of the meaning and worth of life; for Thou only art light for life's meanings, Thou art wisdom for life's questions, Thou art strength for life's duties. Thou knowest that in our hearts there is a passion for the peace of the world and a holy hatred for the tyranny which threatens to degrade Thy sons and daughters. In the anxiety and agony of the present global struggle between slavery and freedom, make our own spirits as the candles of the Lord, and make our America more and more the beacon of liberty for all the world. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1952

O LORD OUR GOD, who hath set us in a world that tests our powers to do and to endure: We beseech Thee to enlighten our minds and to strengthen our hearts. In days when so much of our earth lies in dense shadows may we see the silver lining through every dark cloud and the good that lies hidden in every apparent evil. As we make our pilgrimage in this world of beauty and wonder may we find joy in the loveliness of nature, in the satisfactions of friendship, in the conquest of difficulties, and in the compensations of service. Let Thy spirit rise upon us with the gladness of morning, that in Thy light we may see light. Through Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1952

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast fashioned all hearts to love Thee, created all desires to be satisfied in Thee, and made all paths to lead to Thee: For this hallowed moment we would bow, waiting for the

benediction of Thy grace for the work committed to our hands. We thank Thee for the revelation of Thyself in the beauty and glory of nature, and for the greater knowledge of Thee found in the lives of noble men and women; but above all we lift our Te Deum for the Word that was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Subdue the clamor of our hearts, soften every alien note, dispel every evil mood, and grant Thy servants here devotion and wisdom to write in this Chamber of the people's trust and prayer a record of faith and hope and care for the plight of humanity under all skies. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1952

O LORD OUR GOD, Thy goodness is ever before us and Thy mercy has followed us all our days. Facing problems and difficulties that test our power to the limit, save us from being cynical or fainthearted. May we be strengthened in our own day and generation by the remembrance of joyous adventurers, builders of our free land, who came before us and who have nobly striven and bravely dared in the cause of Thy kingdom. We are inspired by the thought of those whose lips were fragrant with prayer, whose eyes were radiant with hope, whose hearts were strong with courage, and whose minds were like lighted temples. O God, to us may strength be given to follow in their train. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1952

O THOU DIVINE SHEPHERD OF OUR SOULS, who in these fields of time hast prepared green pastures and still waters for the restorations of our jaded and spent strength, lead us this day, we pray Thee, in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake.

Allay the fever of our fretfulness, and lift us above corroding care. Even in these troublous times, may our hearts be untroubled as we stay our minds on Thee. We make our prayer in the name of Him who offers us the peace which passeth all understanding. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1952

FATHER OF LIGHTS, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow caused by turning: Kindle our hearts with the confidence that Thy

love is longer than our longest pilgrimage and that Thy care is wider than our widest horizon. We praise Thee for all things that set a song of rejoicing upon our lips, the sunlight that renews the face of the earth, the lovely growing things that turn to Thy light, the stars in their courses that proclaim Thy majesty and all the beauty of Thy handiwork on earth and sky and sea. We thank Thee for human kindness, for the lamp of hope and faith that all the darkness of the world can never put out.

Illumine our pathway that in these perilous days we may not stumble, but may move forward in quiet confidence that no weapon that has been formed by evil men can finally thwart Thine eternal purpose in all the earth. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the strident voices of this vast and varied world, save us from the supreme tragedy of missing Thy call. Rising above the violence and turbulence of human strife and all the deafening prejudices of our embittered days we would be the hearers and doers of Thy word and of Thy will.

We come today solemnized by the agony and heroism of two long years on Korea's devastated soil where, in the name of the God of righteousness, the forces of freedom have faced and fought pagan hordes of ruthless regimentation. On this sobering anniversary day may our conceptions not be darkened by irrelevant issues. May we see clearly that that ravaged eastern peninsula has global significance as the battlefield of freedom, where liberty is at death grips with slavery plotting the domination of the world.

We would pause to honor our brave sons and those of other nations who have fallen on the barren wastes of that far land, and for the sorrowing families in the homeland. Standing in awe of the divine destiny of our Nation in the molding of a new world, may we here make a new covenant, sealed in the patriots' blood of the past and in the crimson sacrifice of today. Keeping steadfast the faith of true democracy and facing the principalities and powers of darkness, may we never doubt the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient prophecy to tyrants of old: "Your covenant with death shall be annulled, your agreement with hell shall not stand, your refuge of

lies shall be swept away; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, you shall be trodden down by it. The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

We ask it in the name of that Holy One whose truth is marching on. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1952

GOD OUR FATHER, we would make our hearts, cleansed by Thy forgiving grace, a temple of Thy presence, knowing that only to the pure dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face. We come asking not that Thou wouldst give heed to the faltering petitions our lips frame, but that Thou wilt bend Thy ear to the crying of our deep needs. We bring to the altar of prayer our inmost selves, cluttered and confused, where good and evil, the petty and the great are so entwined. May the eternal immensities shame our little thoughts and ways. May the vision of what we might be convict us of what we are. In this great day of Thy testing, when mankind faces the blessing or the curse, life or death, may we not miss the things belonging to our peace and to the peace of the world. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD, before whose face the generations rise and fall, we pause with reverence and contrition, knowing that it is a good thing to give thanks unto Thee, to show forth Thy loving kindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness every night. We come asking that Thou wilt cleanse our purposes and desires, as in Thy name we face the tasks committed to our hands. We would put our hands in Thine and walk with Thee in trust and peace. When the way is uncertain, the day dreary, the problems baffling, inspire us to perform well our daily tasks, asking light for but one step at a time. Keep our lips clean and our thoughts pure. May we never doubt that at last truth and righteousness shall claim their rightful throne. May Thy kingdom come in us and through us: In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1952

OUR FATHER GOD, amid the din of words which assail our ears in an agitated world, grant us an inner calm, undisturbed by any outer commotion. Strengthen us with Thy might that the strain of these

days may not break our spirits, and that no denials of human freedom may intimidate our souls. Even when the shining river of our dreams for a fairer earth seems to sink into the sands of futilty, still may we labor on, serene and confident, knowing, while the weeping for hopes deferred may endure for a night, that the joy of Thy sure victory cometh in the morning. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1952

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in the hearts of all men, in spite of the wide gulfs that now separate Thy children, the true love of concord and good will. Guide, we pray Thee, with Thy pure and peaceable wisdom, all those who in these disturbed days are taking counsel for the nations of this fear-haunted globe. Further their efforts that in tranquility Thy kingdom of justice and righteousness may at last stretch forth its frontiers until the mantle of Thy love shall cover a redeemed earth. Where our deeds can help to make this a better world, where our words can help beaten and despondent men to their feet, where our prayers can hasten the coming of the social order in which Thy wil shall be done among men, let us act and speak and pray. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in this hour of solemn convocation as, with reverent spirits, we open, in a new year, a new volume in our Nation's history, we would first of all in humble contrition lift our hearts to Thee in whom we live and move and have our being. Save us from the supreme hypocrisy of making this holy moment of communion with the Unseen and Eternal but a conventional gesture of unfelt piety. At this high altar of the national life, preserve us from praying with our lips only and not with our hearts and minds.

We come vividly aware that with the dim lamps of our own devices we cannot find a sure and clear path to peace and plenty through the tangled maze of this striken generation. Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom. Be Thou the guardian and the guide of the unbeaten way our feet must take. Grant that those who by the people's choice have been called to high places of state

in this fateful day, assuming responsibilities as heavy as the servants of the Commonwealth have ever borne, may be filled with Thy spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of Thee. Facing unafraid the threat of malignant forces arrayed against the precious things we hold nearest our hearts, may we here merit the crowning benediction for our part in bringing a just peace in our time: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

In Thy might we march on to meet the issues of this day of destiny as, in the name of the Lord our God, we set up our banners. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, here at this altar of supplication which our fathers builded and on which, with their founding faith, they cut deep the devout confession, "In God we trust," we humbly bow with the deathless assurance that turns tragedy to triumph: "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." We pray Thy blessing on these servants of the people's will, whose judgments must weigh vast issues and whose minds must face tangled problems. In Thy light may they see light and in Thy straight path may they not stumble. In all the deliberations begun this day, we pray that their motives may be kept clean, their vision clear, their patriotism undefiled, their speech guarded, their appraisals fair, and their integrity unbetrayed. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, whose years have no beginning or ending, replenish us, we beseech Thee, with Thy sustaining and restraining grace, as our feet tread the uncertain ways of the new year. As we go forward into the unknown future, the past inspires us. We are grateful for the great traditions of which we are heirs. We are conscious of the cloud of witnesses out of heroic yesterdays, who look down upon us from the sacred spaces of this white dome of each patriot's devotion. We are conscious, too, of a listening world, hoping in its agony as in these halls of state is being designed the global shape

of things to come. We would be the true servants of Thy will in this troubled time, and in Thy will alone can we find our own peace and peace for the world; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, endue with Thy wisdom our fallible minds in the midst of decision with the background of fearful forces of nature which, if not harnessed by mutual good will, may destroy us utterly. Give us greatness of soul that the keys of new power may be used to open doors, not of peril but of plenty for the whole earth. In disturbing days strengthen us with the assurance that in the supreme tests only the soul is decisive and that only the spirit can save the flesh.

So, distill upon us the dews of quietness and confidence that in simple trust and deeper reverence we may be found steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in Him and for Him and with Him our labor is not in vain. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1953

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, at noontide the voice of our prayer rises to Thee. We come asking for strength that we may toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. Only when our vision in cleansed and corrected by far horizons can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting. Help us to toil in these fields of time in the sense of the Eternal.

Send us forth with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world with an unruffled kindness which is strength and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, as for this moment we look away from waiting tasks to Thee, Thou judge of all men, strip us of our illusions, chasten us for our willful blindness, cleanse our hearts, capture our wills, clarify our minds. With the drab duty of common days illumined and made glorious by the light within, lead us in the paths of

righteousness, for Thy name's sake. With Thy benediction may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing and clear thinking, with hatred of all hypocrisy, deceit, and sham, and in the knowledge that all great and noble service in this world is based on gentleness and patience. We ask it in that Name which is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, who hath made and preserved us a nation, on this solemn day of farewell and hail we pray the benedictions of Thy grace upon him who, with the approbation of his colleagues and the abiding love of the Nation, goes from this exalted chair of governance after notable years of public service; and we beseech Thee impart Thine enabling might to him who comes to preside over this body. As reverently he takes into his hand this day the historic gavel into which seems to enter every decision since the Nation's founding, may the mantle of the great public servants whose hands have grasped it fall in double portion upon him and upon all who here serve the public weal. Give them, we pray Thee, fairness of appraisal, poise amid confusion, the nobility of goodness, and the simple faith in man that is more than coronets.

And as before the twilight falls a new Chief Executive of the Republic turns to problems more tragic and thorny than any man in history ever knew, may there be given to him and to his advisers in Government the wisdom that is from above, as our ship of state plows on through perilous seas. In spite of rock and tempest roar, in spite of false lights on the shore, bring our national barque to the desired haven of peace, with victory for truth and justice. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1953

AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION, let us offer a prayer for the United States, by George Washington:

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States

at large. And, finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1953

O LORD OF OUR PILGRIM YEARS, the day returns and brings us the round of its concerns and duties. As in Thy sight Thy servants stand here in posts of high public office, make them, we pray Thee, solemnly conscious that their thoughts, their attitudes, their words, and their acts are not their own, but go out from this Chamber set as a light on a hill to influence and to mold the whole structure of human relationships around the world. Help us in all things to be masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of others.

In times of tension and strain keep us calm in temper, clear in mind, pure in heart, in spite of ingratitude, meanness, or even treachery. In these crucial and creative days, enable us to perform faithfully and well what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1953

SPIRIT OF THE ETERNAL, we thank Thee that Thou art not far off, out on the vast rim of the universe; but nearer to us than breathing; warm, sweet, tender; a present help, waiting to live in us; our daily sustenance, the fountain of a strength and courage that will not fail and of a power that can use our frail weakness as its healing and illuminating channel.

In this confused day, with its noisy voices and contending claims, grant unto these Thy servants that they may be faithful to every trust committed by the people to their hands, giving utterance only to their highest, noblest thought, and that upon their shoulders there may rest unsullied the white mantle of the Nation's honor. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, author of liberty, may there be forever cherished in this shrine of freedom and, therefore, found in those who are here called to serve the Republic, those spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and peace out of strife. In a time when the world's hopes depend on character may the shield of America's unyielding integrity be lifted always against the arrows of the principalities of darkness and against all betrayal of justice and righteousness. In Thy providence for all the world may this sweet land of liberty, with all its privilege and power, be the quarry where shall be fashioned the white stones of a new social order whose alabaster cities shall gleam undimmed by human tears, as Thy kingdom comes and Thy will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, beset by the perplexities of these calamitous days with all their fury and terror, let not our strength fail nor the vision fade. In these times when searing hate has done its worst upon the earth, we thank Thee for men and women of good will under all skies, the saving salt of a tortured world, upon whose integrity of character and upon whose understanding sympathy with other nations and races the hopes of tomorrow's world rest. Where our deeds can help to make this a fairer world, where our words can keep despondent men on their feet, where our prayers can hasten the coming of a social order in which Thy will shall be done among men, there let us act and speak and pray. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1953

ETERNAL AND BLESSED GOD, in the midst of the toiling days when the fever and fret of perilous times take their toll of our spirits, we are grateful for quiet arbors where, at an altar of contrition, we may bow for Thy forgiveness and cleansing. With the refreshing dew of Thy strengthening grace upon us may we go forth, on our way attended by the vision splendid, as we lift up our hearts with the glad Te Deum, "He restoreth my soul."

Give us, we beseech Thee, a part in making the earth's crooked ways straight, when social and industrial relations will lose their

hard antagonisms and become the hallowed cooperation of comrades in human service. Toward this high purpose may we labor while our brief day lasts, in quiet confidence that Thou wilt guide our steps and keep our feet from falling. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1953

O THOU WHOSE APPROVAL WE SEEK above the hollow applause of men, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and demanding issues that Thou might lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. We come with grateful hearts for the gift of another day. May its hours be made luminous by Thy presence, who art the light of all our seeing. May we work with full purpose of heart while it is called day, knowing that the night cometh.

In all our dealing with others grant us the spirit of kindliness, of thoughtfulness, and of fair play. Deliver us from all malice and contempt lest we hurt others and sour our own souls. May the tyranny of expediency never bend our conscience to low aims which betray high principles. Hear Thou our prayer, as out of the depths we cry, bowing at the world's great altar stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, led us who seek Thy face to still waters and green pastures where, in some quiet shrine of the spirit, we may be reassured of those values which are excellent and permanent, and which assert their sovereignty in all life's changing scenes.

As we bow at this alter of prayer, with poignant sympathy we lift our supplications for those who are in great lamentation today because of the devastations of tempest and of sea in the terrifying catastrophe which has swept the shores of ancient lands, our partners in the free world. While today with the Nation's Chief Executive we come to a place in these solemn times when the state of the Union is examined, may we carefully examine the state of our own hearts, our ideals, or motives, our ruling passions, knowing that out of men's hearts are the issues of life. And so, near the forum with its clash and dim of human interests, may we ever raise

an altar where a constant sense of the eternal may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, whose paths are mercy and truth, before the white splendor of whose purity every vileness shrinks away: Lift us, we beseech Thee, above the immediate and set our lives in the wide horizons of abiding verities; strengthen our inner resources that we may go forth against unnumbered foes with the whole armor of faith and righteousness, pledging our loyalty to Thy kingdom of love, never letting our confidence in it, nor our devotion to it, fail because of the fury of the wicked when they boast themselves in the day of their pride. As Thy servants and the people's, in this temple of democracy, save us from the perversion of power that has not Thee in awe. In this day of destiny for us and for the world, make us worthy of our vocation as keepers of the sacred flame. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, who art our refuge and strength: We commit our Nation, our cause, and ourselves to Thee. Grant to our anxious, groping hearts the assurance that behind the shadows and in them standeth One who slumbers not nor sleeps. We are beset by perplexity. Our needs are many. But our greatest need is of Thee. Until we find Thee and art found of Thee, the laws of our physical universe break our mortal life, and the laws of Thy moral order make mockery of our futile rebellion.

Breathe now Thy peace on hearts that pray—the peace that comes only when earth's jarring discords are tuned to the music of Thy will. Then as heralds of Thy all-embracing love, send us forth across all barriers of race and creed, bearing to yearning hearts as a holy sacrament the white bread of human kindness and the red wine of willing sacrifice. In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, who art in heaven and in all Thy works, we pause at this wayside altar of prayer, in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues, to commune with Thee, unseen source of beauty, goodness, and truth, that the radiance which is the light of the world may shine upon us and illumine our path of action. May we know no glory but the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world our utmost service, unsullied by base motives of self-interest, as again with the golden gift of a new day at this white altar of devotion we pledge unswerving firmness of purpose, integrity of character, purity of heart, and cleanness of hands, in the fulfillment of our high and holy calling as servants of the Republic. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1953

O GOD, OUR FATHER, in this pavilion of prayer, help us to fling open the shuttered windows of our darkened lives to the effulgent light of Thy presence, so that in our daily work we may reflect some broken beams of Thy glory. Teach us by the adventure of faith how to be victors over life, not victims of it, and that to live worthily we must have a faith fit to live by, a self fit to live with, and a cause fit to live for.

Enlarge the sensitive area of our sympathy, we pray. Write deep upon our hearts the suffering and pain of the shepherdless multitudes so broken by the burdens and stress of these cruel years. Grant us such a vision of our world and its appalling need as to make us sharers with Thee in saving it from the worst that is in man, to the best that is in Thy will and plan when Thy kingdom comes. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, facing the clamant calls and the demanding tasks of another week we would bow for a hallowed moment at this shrine of Thy divine grace. We acknowledge before Thee that our

lives are restless pools. We are disturbed by the social turmoil of our times, burdened by many anxieties, tempted to cynicism by human cruelty and perversity, often disheartened by human folly which seems to profit so little by bitter reaping. Amid the tensions of these terrific days we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty. We would lay our problems and tasks before Thee, not to escape them, but praying for Thy empowering so that with strength and courage we may carry them with a new gallantry.

May our attitudes and hopes widen every area of good will within the reach of our influence. In a divided and violent world may we be among those whom the generations to come shall call blessed, because our records here and now shall write our names among today's peacemakers. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, as at noonday we pause at the footstool of Thy grace, our hearts are both bowed with awe and lifted up with hope. To a world where evil seems so rampant may our contribution be a life purged of self, of all impurity and hatred, moved by compassion and concern for all mankind. Amid pollution may our own motives be a part of the salt of the earth. In the darkness may our spirits be as the candle of the Lord, which no gloom can put out. May the great causes that will mold the future into the pattern of Thy desire and design, that will heal the world and rebuild it and usher in abiding peace, challenge the best that is in us and gain the supreme allegiance of our love and labor, as we serve our brief day. We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, everywhere present but often unreal to us because of our unawareness of Thee, take Thou the dimness of our souls away. Forgive us that our sense of brotherhood commonly fails under the strain of daily life.

We are conscious how easy it is to adore Thee in the sanctuary or as we bow at this wayside shrine of devotion; but to follow Thee in the world, to treat men as brothers, to rise above the prejudices of

our embittered days, we fail at that. We pray for ourselves and for the people of this favored land that genuine fraternity may increase among us, that intolerance and the mutual suspicions of class hatred may not shake our democracy. We pray for good will made real in daily intercourse and conversation, for generosity and magnanimity: That as we have undertaken here a government of, by, and for the people we may not lack that practice of brotherhood without which no such government can endure. Guide our Nation to such use of its power as may cause the peoples of the earth to rise up and call us blessed: As was the dream of our Nation's founders, so now, in the day of our opportunity, make it true. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1953

OUR FATHERS' GOD, we come this day conscious of a cloud of witnesses gazing at us and speaking to us out of the heroic past. Especially we thank Thee for the shining virtues, the moral wisdom and the elevated patriotism of Thy servant, the first President of the Republic who still stands among us in lofty reserve. In this city, which is baptized in his revered name, where the monumental shaft lifts its glistening whiteness to the bending sky, telling to the generations the supremacy of unsullied character, we bow in this hallowed temple of the freedom he wrought to achieve, to give Thee thanks for the life and service of that one whom we reverently call the Father of his Country.

Like him whom we this day praise and honor, may we be unswayed by passion or prejudice. By patience and faith may we, like him, rise above the difficulties, discouragements, and dangers which confront us, as in this day of desperate struggle his unsheathed sword inspires the fighting men of America wherever liberty is challenged by tyranny. So, as the ages roll, may a grateful Nation cherish the luster of his virtues and the greatness of his service. We ask it in the name of the Master whom he adored. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, as in reverence we hallow Thy name, so may we hallow our own as we keep our honor bright, our hearts pure, our ideals untarnished, and our devotion to the Nation's weal high and

true. In these fateful days for whose decisions the future will judge us, by Thine enabling might may we maintain our integrity unsullied by animosities, prejudices, or personal ambitions. Save us from the disguises and pretenses of our own hearts which make us unworthy to wear the vesture of the gallant knighthood of Thine eternal purpose for human brotherhood. As our frail hands have a part in the shaping of the world that is to be, give to us the vision, the wisdom, and the courage that will make for both justice and lasting peace in all the earth. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1953

GOD OUR FATHER, whom we seek in all our need and through all the mystery and perplexity of life, without whom we cannot live bravely or well: Show us Thy will in all the maze of paths our uncertain feet may take. As we draw near to Thee now in prayer at the beginning of this session, do Thou graciously draw near unto us, until we become more sure of Thee than of midday light. Come to us in the common life that entangles us. Meet us in the thorny questions, national and international, which confront us. Make Thy highways through the avenues of sense clothe Thy glory in our failing and fallible judgments.

"Breathe on us, breath of God,
Until our hearts are pure,
Until, with Thee, we will one will
To do and to endure."

Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1953

FATHER OF OUR LIFE, Fountain of our being: We thank Thee for the light of Thy countenance which illumines our pathway with eternal splendor. Without that light we walk in darkness. Without Thee as guide our boasted progress but leads to the quagmires of futility and oblivion. Without Thee our science but whets the sword to a sharper edge and would destroy us with our own wheels and wings. Without Thee commerce cannot save us, for selfish trade but lifts the hunger of covetousness to a higher pitch. Without Thee even education cannot redeem us, for we know now that the mere sharpening of the intellect, the massing and mastery of facts and

figures may but fit men to be tenfold more masterful in the awful art of slaughter. And so, we pray that Thou wilt shatter our delusions, shine through our blindness, shame our pride, that we stray not in folly away from Thee.

As partners in a crusade of decency and honor to make men free, bring us to the common victory for the inalienable rights of all men everywhere. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1953

O GOD, from whom all noble desires and all good counsels do proceed, rise mercifully with the morning upon our darkened hearts. In this tragic and tangled world we are conscious of our woeful inadequacy to sit in the seats of judgment, to balance the scales of justice and to respond with equity to the myriad calls of human need. In this forum of a people's hope wilt Thou crown the deliberations with spacious thinking and with sympathy for all mankind, multitudes of whom are bound by the shackles of tyranny. Facing questions which confront us and almost confound us, quicken in us, we beseech Thee, every noble impulse and dedicate to Thy glory and for human good our best endeavors; transform every task into a throne of service, and sanctify this new week of labor in the ministry of public affairs with the benediction of Thy approval. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for blue days and fair, and for eyes to see and for hearts to feel the wonders of this our Father's world. As before our eyes winter graves change to springtime gardens, all nature speaks to us of stirring life and of the barren earth being reborn to haunting loveliness. Already bushes afire with Thee seem to whisper secrets that our dull souls are too dense to comprehend.

Fill us, we pray Thee, with fresh faith, a triumphant confidence in Thy final victory over the hearts of men. May we face these baffling days with the glad assurance that no weapon that has been formed can prevail against Thy eternal purpose. From the selfish schemes of cruel and stubborn men, we turn sure and content to a

resistless force that will at last burn away every barrier to brotherhood; and to Thee, our God, who will not fail nor be discouraged until, on a cross deep rooted in Thine own heart, Thou dost lift a willful world to the radiance of Thy love and light. We ask it in the ever-blessed name of that One who is the light of the world. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in the stillness of this moment of prayer we would make our souls the sanctuary of Thy spirit. Be Thou our chart and compass in all the complex problems of state. Endue with understanding and sympathy, as well as with a sense of stern justice, those who, as Thy ministers and as the champions of liberty in this free land and in the great capitals of the world, are planning peace and plenty for lands torn and uprooted by the ghastly horrors of war and by those who plot against the peace of the world. As workers together with Thee, teach our hearts and our hands to build that city where Thou shalt dwell with man and where darkness and sorrow and want shall be no more. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, grant unto us as we bow in this stillness quiet hearts, freed from fear and feverish anxiety, as we stay our minds on Thee. In a world so full of shouting and tumult, may we keep clear always a path to an inner shrine where, bowing our spirits in humility and reverence, we guard in unceasing vigil the sacred flame of hope and faith and love on the altar of the unseen and the eternal.

Grant us the divine strength and grace that in these demanding days we may prove worthy of every trust the Nation commits to our hands, as on the anvil of vast issues there slowly takes shape the new and better world that is to be. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1953

OUR FATHER, again through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we face a new day and the tasks of a new week. Wilt Thou lift our duty above drudgery.

Even in the heat and burden of noonday's task let not our strength fail nor our vision fade. Make us patient and considerate one with another in all the fret and jar of human contacts, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle to maintain his integrity and walks a lonely way. Give us, O Lord, a reverence for truth, a deep desire to think and speak with utter candor, and a passion to hasten the day when the rule of justice and righteousness shall engirdle the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1953

LORD OF ALL BEING, whose glory flames from sun and star and on the resurrected earth: We bring to Thee our parched and jaded souls that they may be restored and become as gardens of the Lord. O Thou, from whom in vain we try to flee, in a violent world grant us now a saving experience of inner quiet and serenity. The futile years with their bitter lessons have taught us that the things for which men really grasp, the bauble of fame, the glitter of gold, the allurements of sense, the bread of pleasure, are but vanity and vexation of spirit. And now, at this noontide hour, with the unsatisfied desires of our yearning hearts, we turn in contrition to Thee. Like the flowers in spring gardens uplifted to the sun, like still waters that mirror the eternal stars, so we would lift our needy souls to Thee, our light and our life, our health and our hope. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father, facing the tasks of this new day, make us mindful that upon the free soil of this continent our fathers with holy toil reared a house of faith hallowed by Thy name. We would make our hearts, cleansed by Thy forgiving grace, a temple of Thy presence, knowing that only to the pure dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face. We come asking not that Thou wouldst give heed to the faltering petitions our lips frame, but that Thou wilt bend thine ear to the crying of our human need. We bring to the altar of prayer our inmost selves, cluttered and confused, where good and evil, the petty and the great, are so entwined. May the eternal immensities shame our little thoughts and ways. May the vision of

what we might be convict us of what we are. In this creative day of human destiny may we not miss the things belonging to our peace and to the peace of the world. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1953

O LORD OF OUR PILGRIM YEARS, the day returns and brings us the round of its concerns and duties. As in Thy sight Thy servants serve here in posts of high public office, make them solemnly conscious that their attitudes, their words, and their acts are not just their own, but that they go out from this Chamber, set as a light on a hill, to influence and to mold the whole structure of human relationships around this sad and weary world. Help those who here stand as the representatives of freedom in all things to be masters of themselves that they may be the servants of others. In these times of tension and strain preserve us from minding or magnifying little slights and stings, or giving them. Keep us calm in temper, clear in mind, sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, meanness, or even treachery. In these crucial and creative days, enable us, we pray Thee, to perform faithfully and well what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee our God. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, for this hallowed moment of devotion we would hush into stillness our busy thoughs. So relentlessly are we driven by the pressure of demanding days that our souls become jaded and drained. In these solemn and searching days of the passion help us to take time to search our own hearts. We would turn from the tragic, troubled world without to that inner kingdom where our own deepest desires and motives are regnant, knowing that there are the issues of life and that as a man thinketh in his own heart, so is he. We would dim all lesser lights that the light within may shine with a new radiance. In that light we would see ourselves as we really are, stained by selfishness, warped by prejudice, blinded by pride, duped by false lights that fail.

Grant unto us the grace of penitence that we may not grow insensible to our need of forgiveness from one another and from Thee. In the crises of our times join us, we pray, with those who across the wastes and wilderness of human need, preparing the way of the Lord, throw up a highway for our God. We ask it in the name of the Christ of this Holy Week. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953

O THOU LAMB OF GOD, who taketh away the sin of the world, in the holy pilgrimage of this sacred week we fain would join devout multitudes treading the way of sorrow. We lift our eyes to a green hill outside a city wall and to a lone cross against the sky, a cross so old and yet so new, hallowed by forgiveness for hate's most cruel blows; a cross sanctified by loving solicitude for all mournful mothers weeping at crosses where hang their sons.

Make us worthy of those who, day by day, are making the supreme sacrifice in the spirit of Calvary, that the flag of our dear country may become a symbol of peace on earth and of brotherhood among all men. May the cross of the Redeemer, about which men under all skies are now gathering, be for us as never before the sublime symbol that truth will conquer error, that light will dispel darkness and that, at last, life will prove stronger than death. Steady our hearts and steel our wills to pay the price for the coming kingdom, knowing there is no way to dawn except by dark, no way to light except by night, no way to Easter except by Calvary. We ask it in the name of that One who despised the shame and endured the cross. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1953

GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD, from the beauty of the lilies in the sanctuaries of worship we come in the afterglow of Easter girding ourselves with its deathless message as we take up our daily tasks again, feeling through all this earthly dress bright shoots of everlastingness. In our own risen lives, seeking those things which are above, may we toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal, knowing in very truth that we have passed from death to life.

And thus, in our personal lives and in our national and international relationships, may we face whatever the future holds, calm and confident in the assurance that—

"There lives a beauty that man cannot kill,
Yea, that shall kill all ugliness at last,
May we hold that faith and hold it fast."

We ask it in the name of the risen Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1953

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE, who coverest the earth with a tapestry of beauty, hallowed be Thy name. In the midst of the high concerns of public service, in this demanding and confusing day of global change, we are grateful for quiet cloisters of the spirit where in moments of reverential calm Thou dost restore our souls. In a violent world we seek Thy rest and the refuge of Thy sheltering wing; yet we desire not the rest of those whose hands are folded and whose swords are sheathed, but of those who fight the good fight with all their might.

Grant us, we pray Thee, the peace and poise of the Master Workman who steadfastly faced hate's worst and who, having overcome even death, goes on conquering and to conquer. In His name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1953

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, with minds burdened for the Nation and for the world we turn to Thee, in this baffling hour, praying that in this fear-haunted earth the flame of our faith may not grow dim. Unworthy though we are, Thou hast made us keepers of the holy torch of freedom the fathers kindled with their lives. We would share that sacred fire until tyranny everywhere having been consumed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Steel our wills and steady our hands with power and wisdom, that with eager joy we may dedicate the Nation's strength to throw open the gates of a new life for Thy children everywhere. We ask it in that Name that is above every name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1953

O THOU WHOSE APPROVAL WE SEEK above the hollow applause of men, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and vital issues that Thou might lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. Amid all the tinsel of material things, deliver us from the selfishness which shrinks the soul, from hatred which eats like a canker, from impurity which blinds eyes to Thee and the Godlike, and from the unbelief which dims the splendor of the glory life may hold. Save us from the distorted vision which magnifies the mote in our neighbor's eye and ignores the beam in our own, leading us to condemn in others that which we condone in ourselves.

May those who stand in this holy place of public trust, as they ascend this hill of solemn responsibility, come with clean hands and pure hearts and a passion to serve the present age. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, author of liberty, who hath made and preserved us a nation, may there be forever cherished in this hallowed shrine of freedom and in the hearts of these Thy servants who are here called, in public ministry, to serve the Republic those spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and peace out of strife. May the shield of our own unyielding integrity be always lifted against all that shuns the light and against all betrayal of justice and righteousness, in a time when the world's hopes depend on character. In Thy guiding providence may this sweet land of liberty, with all its privilege and power, be the quarry where shall be fashioned the white stones of the new order whose alabaster cities shall gleam undimmed by tears of want and woe. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, by whose word man goeth forth to his work and to his labor until the evening, through all the terror and tumult of these tragic days may we discern the shining path which is leading

upward to the City of God. Make us, we pray Thee, alive and alert to the spiritual values which underlie all the struggle of these decisive times. In spite of suspicions, animosities, disappointments, and disillusionments which plague the councils of men, gird our hearts to seek peace and pursue it, that the sadly sundered family of mankind may at last be bound by golden cords of understanding fellowship around the feet of the one God. In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1953

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth and whose statutes stand forever: We beseech Thee to grant unto us, who in the morning seek Thy face, fervently to desire, wisely to trace and obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto Thee. Grant unto Thy servants who here serve in the ministry of public affairs, by the will of the people, that laying aside any mere partisan division they may be given tallness of statute to see above the walls of prideful opinion the good of the largest number.

In these days so freighted with destiny grant that those who here speak to the Nation may be so true to their high calling as servants of the common good, that radiant joy may transfigure the drudgery of duty and that on this new day appointed tasks may be met with purity of purpose, without mortal compromise or craven fear. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, the fierce storms sweeping across our world have left us weary with watching; these testing times have found out our every weakness. While the tempest still is high we turn to the infinite calm of Thy changeless love, that we may find inner sustenance, still waters and green pastures, courage to battle for truth, and serenity under strain.

So gird the lives of Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs, that they may make decisions greatly on the high levels of noble purpose and that with kindling sympathies as wide as human need they may in all things quit them like men who match great needs with daring deeds. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, at this white altar of peace and quietness where all divisive cries are stilled we bow in reverence and humility, praying for the enthronement of brotherhood in all the earth. May the instrumentalities of justice, mutual understanding, and cooperative endeavor being devised in these anxious, yet hopeful, days be but the channels of Thy providence, bringing to fulfillment at last the ancient prophet's dream: "Violence shall be no more heard in Thy lands, wasting nor destruction within Thy borders."

Through the lips that speak in this forum of freedom, may there be heard by a listening world the solemn summons to men of good will, of all colors and all nations, to unite in a new commonwealth of all peoples in which power shall be administered as a sacred trust and dedicated to the common good. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast ordained that in the leadership of the nations the welfare of the many must ever rest upon the shoulders of the few. We beseech Thee, give understanding, humility, and charity to those who in Thy name and for the Nation's sake are entrusted here, in this historic Chamber, with the power of governance. We pray that Thou wilt refresh our faith, that the tensions of life may not break our spirit. Make us vividly conscious that beyond the appraisals of man there falls upon our decisions and our actions the searching light of Thy judgment. Save Thy servants from false choices and guide their hands and minds to heal and bind, to build and to bless. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, who amidst all the traffic of our busy ways dost lead our steps to this wayside sanctuary of the spirit, take Thou the dimness of our souls away. Our hearts are restless until we find Thee and are found of Thee. Without Thee we can find no light nor rest nor strength. Like those who raise their eyes from foul and narrow city streets to the snow-clad whiteness of mountain

peaks and to the steadfast calm of the friendly stars, so we would lift our gaze to the infinite sky of Thy mercy and to the beckoning hills of Thy help; as we link our hopes for all humankind to Thee, who seest our little, troubled hour as one to whom a thousand years are but one day. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1953

WE PRAISE THEE, OUR FATHER, for this world and its witness of Thee: For sunshine, wind, and rain; for the boundless sea and the everlasting hills; for high sailing clouds and clear shining stars; for springing grass and flowers; and for stately trees that lift their leafy arms to pray. Help us to drink to the full of the beauty and strength of the world and to know that they come from Thee as the gifts of Thy love to us.

We praise Thee for the sacrament of life: For its great adventure, its glorious opportunities, its zeal, its triumph, even its seeming defeats; for the things that point beyond ourselves to a spiritual realm from which they take their rise; for the failures that quicken better hopes; for unfulfilled desire that anchors us to Thee; and for all ministries of the infinite, as the beauty of common things and the light of heaven upon daily tasks lift our climbing feet to the vestibule of Thy glory. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own understanding we would lift the difficult decisions of the public weal unto Thy holy light. Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom; for in these anxious days when the destinies of nations hang in the balance, the tensions of human relationships are like waters tossed and troubled. O God, the answers for which we gropingly seek in the darkness of our own devices are hidden in Thy heart. Make us such men that Thou mayest speak to us and that to this bewildered generation we may be the broadcasters of Thy voice and will. So shall the world that ever surely climbs to Thy desire mount swifter toward Thy purpose and intent for mankind. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, in this still moment make us vividly aware of the invasion of the Divine through all the areas of our needy, yearning lives. Give us, we pray Thee, the grace of hospitality to the highest. As citizens of a troubled world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation in a violent time. May the poisoning evil which blights the earth not devastate our inner lives, subduing us to its low standards, confusing us by its chaos or crushing our faith under its tragedy. Praying for grace to make us worthy of so momentous a time our intercession rises for our Nation, its President, the Congress, and all who influence its policies; and for the whole body of the people that the fearful sacrifices, which are even now being paid in blood and sweat and tears, may not end in disillusionment of mankind's hopes and the despair of our children after us. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, help of the ages past, hope for the years to come: In the hush of this moment closing the door of prayer on the outer world with its tumultuous and unpredictable events, in the white light of Thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are, petty and proud creatures who seek their own wills and whims in spite of the polished courtesies and noble professions with which we, alas, sometimes come to Thee.

Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts from all defiling foulness and from the secret sin of pretense. Fit us, we beseech Thee, faithfully to protect the Republic from outward aggression and from inner selfishness. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1953

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND BEAUTY, we thank Thee for eyes to see and for hearts to thrill at every sacrament of loveliness, as earth again clothes itself in the blooming garb of spring. We would pray for the beauty of holiness within and that there may be those virtues and graces which will make our own lives as the garden of the Lord. Unto our keeping, Thou hast committed a national heritage lumi-

nous with freedom's glorious light. For all the glory which is America, we bless Thy name: For borders without guns, for unity in diversity, and for equality which beckons all to the summits.

In this sacred Chamber, facing decisions of destiny, unite the hearts and minds of these Thy servants, we beseech Thee, in a mighty purpose that they fail not man nor Thee. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whose inward fellowship means cleansing, forgiveness, peace, and power, dissolve the barriers that keep our souls from Thee; the self-sufficiency that will not recognize our need; the spiritual blindness that sees the visible but is unaware of the invisible and eternal. Thy sun is shining, but often our windows are shuttered. Grant to us the grace of spiritual hospitality to Thee, of open windows and receptive hearts.

As in this violent day the winds grow harder may our roots strike deeper. Whatever outward things these dangerous times take from us, may they by Thy grace make us inwardly more adequate and wise, dependable and strong. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, as we come in the reverential stillness of this moment, our spirits bowing at the altar of Thy greatness and goodness, be to us more than a name, more than a distant deity enthroned in heavenly glory; be to us a quickening presence, a sustaining power, a refuge from the confusion and tumult of our times. May we see life steadily, and see it whole, and discern in it Thy purpose for us and for our fellows.

Thou knowest how we are tempted. The drain of our daily work, the limitations of our strength frustrate so often our yearnings after a nobler life. We pray that there may be renewed within us a sense of joy at the high privilege of serving the present age. Let Thy spirit dwell in our hearts that we may carry about the infection of a good courage and gallantly greet the unseen with a cheer, knowing that whatever comes Thou art our rock and our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, again we turn unfilled to Thee, whose mercies are new every morning and whose love knows no end nor change. Lift the light of Thy countenance upon us, pilgrims, as all our fathers were, and that remembering all the way by which Thou hast led us we may take heart and hope as we face the duties and demands of these days that try men's souls. Preserve us, we pray Thee, from fretfulness and impatience, from depression and anxiety. Increase our faith, strengthen our judgment, quicken our zeal for the things high and holy.

Hear our prayers for a confused and anxious world. Send Thy light into our darkness. Bestow upon the President of the United States and his coadjutors, the Vice President, the Congress, and upon all in every land, who bear rule, special gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may uphold what is right and follow what is true and do their full part toward establishing a world in which the grievous ills of this time may disappear and a glad day of brotherhood and peace may dawn. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt make this moment of devotion a pavilion of Thy peace as, trusting only in Thy mercy, we bring our soiled souls to Thy cleansing grace. We come with burdens on our minds and hearts for our Nation and the world. We come with haunting fears of a war won and a peace lost, with deep anxiety concerning the future our children will inherit from our hands; yet we live in the faith that Thy truth is marching on even in the perplexities of these terrific days.

Make us ministers of that good will which asks nothing for itself that it does not covet for the whole world, and which will not halt its growing sway until it joins all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples into one great fraternity. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, as at the beginning of another week we pause at this wayside shrine of prayer, may we find the altar within us. Thou hast created us to be Thy temples. Grant that the holy places

of our inner lives may harbor nothing unworthy of our high calling as ministers of the public trust. The din of words assails our ears from an agitated world. Grant us an inner calm, undisturbed by any outer commotion, and courage to seek the truth honestly and to follow humbly the kindly light that leads us on. And in these times that try our souls and test our character, may Thy strength sustain us, Thy grace preserve us, Thy wisdom instruct us, Thy might protect us, and may Thy hand direct us this day and evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1953

O GOD, our spirits are restless until they find the rest of Thy presence; our hearts are empty and our lives barren until Thou dost possess our very souls. Apart from Thee these feverish days are but tangled tragedy, sound and fury signifying nothing, devoid of meaning, dignity, and beauty. In Thy radiance trivial rounds become sacraments, common days are glorified and even bitterness, disappointment, and failure are transfigured and redeemed.

Make us great enough for these great days. Deliver us from pride and prejudice. Join us to those who labor to bring sense and system to this disordered globe, and grant that our eyes may yet look upon a world that has found the pathway leading onward to the plains of universal peace. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1953

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast cast our lot in pleasant places, we praise Thee for our goodly heritage in this land of the free and the home of the brave. In this forum of the people's will we remember with gratitude those gifts of heart and mind and spirit that have fashioned this Republic, the wisdom of the fathers who founded a society conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, the consecration of good men and women who established this Nation upon the enduring foundation of religion. By Thy grace Thou hast led us from perilous beginnings to this day of testing and destiny.

Give wisdom, we pray Thee, to those who plan the Nation's program, clarity of thought to those who fashion the ideals of the people, and strength of purpose to those who seek to lift the spiritual levels

of the Republic. Divinely guide our President and all those into whose hands have been entrusted the affairs of state. And facing a world in commotion, where so many are groping in the darkness of tyranny, may our America united in spirit do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before Thee. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1953

O GOD, who turnest the shadows of night into morning, we pause for this dedicated moment in the freshness of this new day; we come as inquiring children seeking direction, as those too often held under the tyranny of things, seeking freedom. May Thy truth make us free. As servants of the people, help us, O Lord, to weave some precious thing into the fabric of this day; mold us to Thy purposes, fashion us to Thy hands; shape us on the anvil of these days of destiny into instruments fit for Thy use.

We lift our hearts to Thee in gratitude for our heritage in this land of rich resources, high privilege, and enlarging freedom. We pray, and would work as we pray, for sincerity and honesty in our relations with one another and with all peoples and nations that differences may be reconciled, enmities abolished, justice done, and a righteous peace achieved. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1953

SPIRIT OF GOD, descend upon our hearts and grant that in this temple of a people's hope Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs may serve Thee in the beauty of holiness.

For every spiritual insight which sees beyond the faulty and superficial and finds sermons in stones and good in everything; for every heavenly treasure which satisfies the heart, so that for its sake we gladly surrender the cheap and sordid; for all strengthening burdens, weights which turn into wings as they increase strength and gladden the spirit; for all doors of opportunity to render service, to extend kindness, to reach out the helping hand of understanding friendship; and for the radiant hope that sends its ray far down the future's broadening way: We praise Thy name, as in the heat and burden of this new day we lift lame hands of prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1953

GRACIOUS GOD OUR FATHER, whose still, small voice invites us to turn aside from feverish ways and whose tender love bids us find our rest in Thee: In the silence of this shrine of each patriot's devotion we would lose our restlessness, refresh our energies and, turning aside from all cynicism, recapture the sense of being in tune with Thee.

We thank Thee for the lessons of the road we have traveled. We are warned by mistakes, encouraged by success, and enriched by experiences of gladness and sadness. We are grateful for work that must be done and play that may be enjoyed, for times of struggle, for hours of peace, for things that shake our overconfidence and enduring things that give strength and courage.

Make us worthy of our great heritage. Give us a kindling sense of national destiny as we face the duties of today and the problems of tomorrow. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, with our burdened lives tense and strained in a violent world, we seek the peace which is the gift of Thy grace to all those who yield their wills to Thy will, their minds to Thy truth, their hearts to Thy obedience. God of our fathers, save us from the supreme hypocrisy of decorating tombs and at the same time desecrating the heritage which graves guarantee. Make us clean in mind and imagination, upright in character and life. Help us to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong. Amid all the strife and confusion of our times preserve to us a vision of the world as Thou wouldst have it be, and grant us some part in molding it nearer to Thy purposes of love and grace. With our eyes always on that shining goal, as our Nation stands in the valley of decision, save us from any expedient compromise which would mean the crucifixion of moral principle and prove to be in the fateful tomorrow but part of a progressive surrender to the pagan forces which have vowed the destruction of the free world. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1953

O THOU WHO ART THE KING OF KINGS and the Lord of Lords, amid toils and turmoils testing our jaded spirits, we thank Thee that each day as we enter this forum of debate and decision there swing open before us these gates of peace and prayer. Above the pomp and circumstance of temporal coronations which enthrone earthly rulers we would today hear another voice declaring: "Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

In that Eternal Presence we would bow, at whose holy altar this day has humbly knelt an earthly queen with crown removed. We would crown Him Lord of all whom the prophet of the Most High declared in ages past: "And the government shall be upon His shoulders," knowing that His are the only shoulders strong enough to bear the task of governing the destinies of mankind; and that there can be no stable peace and no final security until upon His brow rests the royal diadem. So, this day, when a weary, war-worn world beholds a fleeting scepter placed in a woman's hand in the mortal realm where swift to its close ebbs out life's little day, in our personal and in our national life we would—

"Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a scepter sways,
From pole to pole that wars may cease
And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And 'round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet."

In His name whose right it is to reign. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, beset by the perplexities of these calamitous days with all their fury and terror, let not our strength fail, nor the vision fade. Save us from blighting disillusionment and corroding cynicism. Make us alive and alert to the spiritual values which underlie all the struggle of these epic days. With a sense of empty futility we confess our utter inability to save our own souls and our world by our

own lifting and devices. May the integrity and stability of our own personalities, freed of pettiness and prejudice and radiant with contagious good will which leaps all separating barriers, be channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, in this still moment at the week's beginning make us vividly aware of Thy divine invasion through all the areas of our yearning lives. Give us the grace of hospitality to the highest. As citizens of a world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever before borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation; and yet save us from the supreme folly of crying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. May the poisoning evils which blight the earth not devastate our inner lives, subduing us to its low standards, confusing us by its chaos, or crushing our faith under its tragedy. At this high altar in the temple of public service maintain, in those who here serve the people, the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required: In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1953

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast opened the gates of the morning and bidden us once more to enter into the joys and the opportunities of a new day, we would pause at its threshold in reverence and humility of heart, knowing that from Thee no secrets are hid. Thou knowest the motives that impel us and the expectations that we cherish.

We thank Thee for health and vigor, quietness and music, beauty and sunshine, and the bounty of nature. We thank Thee for the vision of the Founding Fathers, for the wise ordering of national leaders, for the fidelity of common people in obscure places, and for the heroism of those who are defending all that we hold dear upon the battlefield. Make us worthy of our great heritage. Give us a solemn sense of national destiny. Inspire the citizens of our land, we beseech Thee, to make her great in spirit as she is mighty in power. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL GOD, we bless Thy holy name for all that Thou hast bestowed upon us in the bounty of this opulent world which is our home. As Thou hast fashioned us for Thyself with restless hearts that find no rest save in Thee, go Thou with us all our pilgrim way and lead us, by our defeats as by our victories, into the knowledge of Thy peace. Give us light for our darkness and strength for every high purpose wherein we are weak, bringing us to face every task in quiet confidence, undisturbed, forever sure that Thou wilt guide our steps and hold our feet from falling. Let the knowledge of Thy redeeming purpose shine in our hearts and on our path as a lamp illuminating the way ahead. In these days that try men's souls we would have Thy will to be our will. Strengthen us by Thy spirit, and make each of us, in the place where we stand, a channel for the coming of Thy kingdom. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1953

O LORD, OUR GOD, in the quiet of this sacred moment dedicated to the things that are unseen and eternal, we come to Thee in the name of Him unto whom every knee must bow. At this daily shrine of the spirit we would be made aware of eternal realities and lifted out of our littleness by abiding values greater than ourselves.

Give us honest eyes to see the spiritual poverty that we try to hide from each other, but which we cannot hide from Thee, unto whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid. In this dismaying era, with all its darkness, we are deeply thankful for the things that cannot be shaken and for guiding lights of beauty and goodness and truth that no winds of violence can ever blow out. In the vast difficulties confronting the makers of peace for this ravaged earth, restore and strengthen and sustain our souls and lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, whose glory the heavens and the earth declare and whose garments vast and white we touch in all truth, all beauty, all goodness: We are grateful that Thou dost bend so close to our frail

mortality that at the altar of prayer spirit with spirit may meet. Though our upturned faces are shadowed by earth's tragedy, we lift them in faith to the light that no darkness can put out. Praying for grace to make us worthy of so momentous a time, our intercession rises for our Nation, its President, the Congress and all who influence its policies, and for the whole body of the people, that the fearful sacrifice now being poured out to preserve freedom may not end in the disillusionment of mankind's hopes and the despair of our children after us. Give to us peace in our time, O Lord, a just and a righteous peace. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, without whose guidance our wisdom is but folly, keep us this day in serenity and confidence as our hearts and minds are stayed on Thee. May we guard our words with the seal of understanding charity. Save us from being embittered by ingratitude, pettiness, or meanness, and from turning coward in the day of battle. May we be satisfied with nothing less than our best, however difficult, and testing the duty before us. May the voice of the past warn us from paths which lead to national disaster. May the voice of the present call us to be prophets of good will in today's crisis. Yet save us from trying to purchase a spurious good will by bartering moral principles or the right of men to make their own choices. May the voice of the future challenge us to a golden day when earth's dismal deserts shall blossom into gladsome gardens. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in the abundance of Thy mercy another day is added to the record of the lengthening years: For the morrow and its needs, we do not pray; for the day which now bathes us in its returning light, give us courage, give us wisdom, and set Thou a seal upon our lips lest any words of ours shall needlessly hurt or discourage some pilgrim by our side. As lovers and servants of this dear land of freedom, make us worthy of the past and equal to the present.

We come in the sorrow of a poignant sense of loss as we remember with admiration and gratitude the honored Member* of this body whose useful, earthly life has so suddenly ended. We thank Thee that his gentleness made him great and that his sanctified wisdom and pure humanity made his radiant personality as a candle of the Lord. In this Chamber where he served with such distinction and integrity we remember this hour the unstinted service he rendered to his State and to his Nation, and all the adornment he brought to the noble profession of the law, to his church, and in extending the mighty influence and ministry of his alma mater. We remember with joy that for him party loyalty was ever but an altar of consecration in the greater temple of his undefiled patriotism as, at home and abroad, he served his Nation with patient courage, gentle courtesy, and constant devotion to every trust committed to his hands. Vouchsafe unto his stricken loved ones Thy tenderest mercies and the consolations of Thy sustaining grace, as they face this devastating loss in the loving family circle.

In this hour of national and personal loss, through our tears we thank Thee that such have been, though they are here no more. We rejoice in the assurance of our faith that death is but the portal to another room in the Father's many-mansioned house. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, we bow in contrition at this wayside shrine, conscious that there is an altar within the temple of our spirit; there, even though forgotten and neglected, but ever reminding us of the needs and aspirations, the capacities and loyalties which lift us to our truest selves.

> "Spirt of purity and grace,
> Our weakness pitying see,
> O make our hearts Thy dwelling place,
> And worthier Thee."

In our hands Thou hast entrusted power and leadership that can make or break hopes of a better world. But, because the first responsibility of every man is to contribute to the world's good, his own life, strong, clean, honest, trustworthy, and serviceable, we pray for ourselves that we may not fail our generation or Thee. We ask it in the spirit and name of Christ. Amen.

*Senator Willis Smith, of North Carolina.

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1953

O THOU WHOSE DWELLING PLACE is the light of setting suns and the round ocean and the living air, and the blue sky, and in the mind of man: Shine into our darkness by the light of Thy truth. Correct the dismal errors of our judgments and the false perspective of our narrow prejudices by the wisdom Thou dost wait to give liberally to all who ask of Thee and who with pure hearts wait patiently and obediently for Thy will and Thy word. Inspire and guide, we beseech Thee, with the spirit of understanding these Thy servants, the few among the many in a great and crucial day lifted by their fellows to high pedestals of power and influence. May their words and counsels so laden with possibilities to affect this stricken generation add to the world's store of good will and be for the healing of the nations. When great ideas whose day has come beckon us to be their servants, save us from giving ourselves to the dead past, rather than to the creative present and the living future. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1953

AT THE INN OF THE MORNING we would wait for Thee, Thou guide of our pilgrim way. We thank Thee for this new day, for its new strength and vigor, its new hopes and its new opportunities. Help us to meet its joys with praise, its difficulties with fortitude, its duties with fidelity.

In the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught, help us in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation, and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good will, dedicated to the goal of opening the gates of a new life for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, who are in heaven and in all Thy works, we pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues to commune with Thee, who alone art our rock and our salvation. As workers together with Thee, teach our hearts and our hands to build

that city where Thou shalt dwell with man, where darkness and sorrow and pain and want shall be no more. Solemnize us with the vivid realization of how swift to its close ebbs out our own little day, as we think tenderly this hour of one who so recently stood in this Chamber, so able and faithful, with the consecrated powers of his strong manhood serving the Nation he loved and who has now fallen on sleep in the full strength of his days. Help us to work valiantly while it is called day, knowing that so soon the night cometh when no man can work. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, we come conscious that the regal fact of Thy fatherhood ties us to every son and daughter of Thine under the spreading canopy of Thy universal love and care. May the great causes that concern Thy human family, the selfless ministries that heal the world and rebuild it, the attitudes that create good will and make abiding peace possible at last, gain the utter allegiance of our labor and our love. As leaders of the Nation in these tempestuous days grant to Thy servants, who here deliberate, clear thought, kind hearts, and quiet faith. And among ourselves, in this dear land of the free, and in our dealing with all the peoples of the world, in nations great and small, may we be so transparently just and fair that falsehood and expediency and every evil that shuns the light may be banished by the truth which makes men free. In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world where all without is change and decay and within fear of failure and the unknown future haunting our hearts, at the springs of Thy abiding presence, at the altar of prayer, we would keep alive our faith in values that are permanent and in the kindly light behind all the shadows. Whatever the future may hold, whether of joy or of pain, fulfillment or disappointment, even though the waters roar and though the mountains are shaken into the seas, still may we be upheld by an encompassing strength which is not of ourselves, but of Thee. And by that sustaining power may

we be enabled to face the light of any day or the terror of any night. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1953

GOD OF ALL LIFE AND LIGHT, turning away for this hallowed moment from the confusion of tongues we seek the quiet pavilion of prayer. As we bow in contrition before Thee may the bewildering voices of the world about us and all the clamor of wordy arguments be hushed. In Thy presence our arrogance is rebuked and our pride of opinion is mocked as we confess that we but grope in the darkness and that our sight is dim, our knowledge is partial, and our judgments fallible.

Make us honest and honorable enough to bear the vision of the truth, wherever it may lead; to have done with all falsehood, to cast aside all pretense. Save us from all compromise with principle and the expediency which warps the soul.

In the daily deliberations of this body may every mind be attentive to Thy voice, in this solemn day of our testing, that we may know the things which belong to our peace and to the peace of the world. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, in times when life is somber with bitter loss and the nights are peopled with wistful longings for those who come not back; when sickening sights are held before our shocked eyes of untold thousands of our fellow beings tortured by lustful cruelty; when the tempo of these epochal days is swift and frantic with unpredictable events tumbling upon us without warning, in a world already wildly chaotic: O Thou God who art from everlasting to everlasting and to whom a thousand years are but one day, in a still moment like this may a holy hush within our spirits whisper words of courage and fortitude and fidelity. Though the road to peace in our time and for our children's children be tedious and toilsome, still lead us on following the gleam of Thy guidance with clean hands and pure hearts, worthy of the trust the Nation has committed to our keeping. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1953

ETERNAL SPIRIT, by whose word man goeth forth to his work and to his labor until the evening: Through all the terror and tumult of these tragic days may we discern the shining path which is leading upward to the city of God.

Set our feet with steadfast purpose, day by day, upon the ascending trail of righteous duty and selfless service. As servants of the Nation, in times that try men's souls, may all uncleanness be burned from our hearts, error purged from our minds, and our will be lost in Thine. In spite of suspicions, animosities, disappointments, and disillusionments which plague the councils of men, gird our hearts to seek peace and pursue it, that the sadly sundered family of Thy children may at last be bound by golden cords of understanding and fellowship around the feet of the one God. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 13, 1953

FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, Thou has ordained that not in cushioned seats of safety but in danger and stern conflict shall we find our strength and our triumph. Send us forth, we pray Thee, to the work of this new week with the assurance that has steadied Thy servants across all the changing centuries, as they have gratefully said "He restoreth my soul." Forgive us for praying that Thy kingdom might come and then, by our own selfish stubbornness, barring the way when it has sought to come through us. Deliver us from the hyprocisy of giving lip service to the golden goals of Thy kingdom, as if we looked for its coming without, in others, and not in our own hearts. With the wrecks of nations which have broken Thy law of love still smoking in ruins before our eyes, let the purifying stream of Thy mercy cleanse our national life lest our destruction be determined and we go the mournful way of the nations that have forgotten God. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1953

GOD OUR FATHER, whom we seek in all our need and through all the mystery and perplexity of life, without whom we cannot live bravely or well: Show us Thy will, we beseech Thee, in all the maze

of paths our uncertain feet may take. As in prayer we draw near to Thee now, do Thou graciously draw near unto us, until we become more sure of Thee than of midday light. Come to us in the common life that entangles us, meet us in the thorny questions which confront us. Breath through the things that are seen the peace of the unseen and eternal. Though the hope of a better world betimes seems forlorn, may we be found ready to be pioneers of it; without stumbling and without stain may we follow the gleam until the day is ended and our work is done, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1953

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for this world of beauty in the midst of which we walk; for the dawn of the morning, for the stars in the night sky, for the gifts of love and of friendship, for sacred and sunny memories, and for every radiant hope which inspires us on our pilgrim way.

Help us this day to live worthily as Thy children, to be true and just in meeting every experience, to rise above all worry, fear, and hatred, and to live in an atmosphere of spiritual serenity, knowing that Thy completeness flows around our incompleteness and around our restlessness Thy rest. Help us always to see the best that glimmers through the worst. Take our lips, speak through them. Kindle our minds with the apprehension of Thy truth. Set our wills on fire to do Thy will and to serve Thy children everywhere. So in this spirit of true service may we walk today and all the days. We ask it in the Saviour's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1953

O SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, whose mercies are infinite, whose love is eternal: Breathe upon us with Thy quickening power; fill us with life anew as we enter upon the duties of another day. We come before Thee with a solemn sense of the high demands of public service amid the tragedies that have befallen men and nations. We do not ask that Thou wilt keep us safe in these dangerous times, but that Thou wilt keep us loyal to the ideals of this dear land of freedom. Keep us at tasks too difficult for us, that we may be driven unto Thee

for strength. Increase our faith in the ultimate triumph of goodness. And help us to realize that each responsibility is but another opportunity to so grid ourselves that we may worthily serve our God and our country. Strengthen our weakness. Purify us from all uncleanness. Grant us a new and clearer glimpse of the vision splendid, so that, led by the Kindly Light, we may go forth along the path of duty with dauntless faith, having no fear save that of failing Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, giver of all good and grace—author of everlasting life—we come to Thee today with a startled yearning, in an altered world with a lonesome place against the sky. Thou knowest that upon our spirits is the sadness of farewell, as we think tenderly of a familiar form who will walk with us no more. With gratitude and honor we remember that one whom today the Nation is mourning who so recently stood with reverently bowed head at his place of high leadership in this historic Chamber as at the opening of daily deliberations the blessing and guidance of the source of all wisdom was invoked at this altar of prayer set up from the beginning of the Republic.

As his empty seat is today the symbol of our aching and poignant loss, we are grateful that he who thus stood in prayer also stood here across the valiant years to contend for the things he steadfastly believed to be in the best interest of the Nation he loved.

We give Thee thanks for the transparency of this public servant who was an apostle of honesty in whom was no guile or shadow of duplicity or expediency—who could be counted upon to say what he meant and to mean what he said without fear or favor. To this forum he came not with superficial opinions making a mockery of intelligence but with deep convictions that had cost long and studious hours of investigation as he diligently sought the very roots of vexing problems. We thank Thee in a world shot through with evasion for the robust honesty of this man to whom stubborn consistency was not always a virtue and who was not too proud to change his attitude when some new facet of the total truth came into view. And so today in this national body of which he was so towering a figure

we would covet for ourselves that love of America which he exemplified and incarnated—a patriotic passion not dimmed by misunderstanding or disappointment but which sought in all and through all to feed with his utmost strength the perpetual fire of the Nation's life.

And so with heavy hearts on this day of bitter loss we would render thanks, Thou Master of all good workmen, for this servant of Thine and of the Republic in troubled days, Robert A. Taft. And we give him back to Thee with his heart pure and his hands clean, knowing where we shall find him in ampler fields of service and in what company we shall see him when the long night is past and the morning breaks. We ask it in the name of the risen Master of the living dead. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee that Thou hast set eternity in our hearts, even as we toil in these fields of time. The life beyond this bourne of time and sense seems very near since, in so brief a space, death has suddenly summoned three honored colleagues* from the membership of this body. Their familiar forms are with us no more. Their great gifts are no longer at the service of the Nation. Their unexpected passing vividly reminds us that in the midst of life we are in death and that it behooves us to work while it is called day, knowing that soon the night will fall.

From all the illusive shows of sense we turn to the refuge of Thy overshadowing presence, Thou who art our center and our rest, our shelter in the stormy blast, and our eternal home. May Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs be led to decisions that shall heal the wounds and bridge the gulfs of these embittered days. At the threshold of this day come down Thy secret stair to our deepest needs, as one by one we open our hearts to Thee. Amen.

Funeral Service of Robert A. Taft in the Rotunda of the Capitol

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN and our fathers that begat us, leaders of the people by their counsels, honored in their generation and the glory of their time; those that have left a name behind them

*Senator Willis Smith, of North Carolina; Senator Charles Tobey, of New Hampshire; Senator Robert A. Taft, of Ohio.

that their praises might be reported. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their names liveth forevermore.

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Let us lift our hearts in prayer:

O God, who art the strength of Thy saints and who redeemest the souls of Thy servants: We bless Thy name for all those who have died in the Lord and who now rest from their labors, having received the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls.

Especially we call to remembrance Thy loving kindness and Thy tender mercies to this Thy servant. For all Thy goodness that withheld not his portion in the joys of this earthly life, and for Thy guiding hand along the way of his pilgrimage, we give Thee thanks and praise. We bless Thee for Thy grace that kindled in his heart the love of Thy dear name, that enabled him to endure unto the end, to greet the unseen with a cheer; yea, to become more than conqueror through Him that loveth us.

And now in this solemn hour, in this domed shrine of each patriot's devotion, the chosen leaders of our mourning Nation gather about the mortal body of the fallen leader who, with consecrated powers, scorning personal delights for the sake of statecraft, poured forth devoted and unstinted service for the America he loved. Remembering today his towering mind, his transparent sincerity, his unsullied integrity as he grappled with the legislative problems of his troubled times, a grateful Republic tenderly lifts his familiar form to this most exalted pedestal of national honor that it might here write, as the victorious record of his toiling career: He has fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith.

And grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we who rejoice in the triumph of Thy departed servants may profit by their example; that becoming followers of their faith and patience, we also may enter with them into an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1954

LET US LIFT OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER.

Our Father God, who hath made and preserved us a nation, we thank Thee for new years and for new days, for new thoughts of Thee and for new hopes for a redeemed humanity and a cleansed earth. That hope is brightened and that faith is strengthened as we turn from all beside to an altar of dependence and contrition where, around our incompleteness, flows the completeness of the divine resources.

We pray Thy choicest blessings upon these servants of the Nation's welfare, who with renewed powers and restored souls return this day to the high tasks of this National Chamber of deliberation. To Thee we come with a solemn sense of our own inadequacy. With the dim lamps of our own devices we cannot find a sure and clear path through the tangled maze of this stricken generation. May no cherished resentments, no camouflaged selfishness, no small loyalties nor ingrained prejudices choke and clog the channels of our public service. Enlarge our spirits to meet the stupendous dimensions of these epic days.

O God, to whom the future belongs, use us as pioneers of a better world for ourselves and for all people. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1954

O GOD, OUR FATHER, who art love and light and truth, we turn unfilled to Thee. In a world where the very foundations seem to be shaken we cherish this hushed and hallowed moment which so long ago the Founding Fathers set apart as an altar of prayer at the day's beginning. Here, bowing with contrite hearts, we would be sure of Thee and of spiritual resources before facing the high solemnities of waiting tasks.

Grant that those who in this fateful day by the people's choice have been called to high places of state, facing responsibilities as heavy as the servants of the Commonwealth have ever borne, may be filled with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of Thee. In an hour when such vast issues are at stake for all the world, may those who here serve, conscious

of the great tradition in which they stand, rise to greatness of vision and soul as the anxious eyes of all the nations are fixed upon this Chamber.

Upon the President of the United States and his counselors, upon the Vice President, the Members of the Congress, upon all who mold our domestic policies and our relationships with other nations, whose decisions affect the lives of untold millions, we implore the wisdom which is from above and the undergirding of Thy everlasting arms. Together, with fixed purpose of heart, in Thy might, unafraid, send us forth to meet the issues of this crucial year as in the name of the Lord our God we set up our banners. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1954

O GOD, OUR FATHER, from whom all holy desires and all good counsels do proceed, rise mercifully with the morning upon our darkened hearts. In this tragic and tangled world, so willful and divided, we are conscious of our woeful inadequacy to sit in the seats of judgment, to balance the scales of justice, and to respond with equity to the myriad calls of human need. Wilt Thou crown the deliberations of this Chamber with Thy wisdom and with spacious thinking. Lighten the eyes of these Thy servants, who here speak for the Nation, with Thy sympathy for all mankind. As they here face questions which confound fallible human appraisals, quicken in them, we beseech Thee, every noble impulse, and sanctify for Thy glory and for human good their best endeavors. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knowest our frame and the frailties of our dust, we turn to Thee who alone canst fill our life with holy purpose. In the stillness of this hallowed moment we would bring to Thy altar the ancient sacrifice of an humble and a contrite heart. Breathe upon us, breath of God, with Thy quickening power restoring our souls, that we may feel a renewed sense of privilege as we enter upon the duties of yet another day.

We thank Thee for this new day, with all its precious possibilities, for its fleeting hours waiting to be filled with honest labor; but espe-

cially we are grateful that it is an open door of golden opportunity to serve Thee, our Nation and our fear-haunted world. We pray that through the turmoil of life we may find Thy peace, that for all the challenges of life we may find Thy strength and in the adventure of death Thy rod and Thy staff in the shadow of the valley. We ask it in that Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1954

O GOD, our shelter from life's stormy blasts and our eternal home: We come with confidence, not in our feeble hold of Thee but in Thy mighty grasp of us as we trust the love that will not let us go. Gird, we beseech Thee, with a strength and power which is not their own Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs, who, in this temple of the people's hope, give their consent to enactments expressing the inflexible creed that human tyranny is an offense to the Creator and that by divine decree mankind everywhere is crowned with infinite worth and dignity, the right to abundant life and abounding freedom.

We humbly pray that Thou wilt use us in these decisive days as Thy instrument to bring to naught the evil schemes of all who, at home and abroad, deny the fundamental faith which flames in splendor at the heart of a democracy which shall at last redeem all the sons of men and make them the sons of God.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1954

O FATHER OF LIGHTS, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, from all the baseness which tempts us in this mortal life and which tends to pull us away from our highest, we would stretch lame hands of prayer to Thee, knowing that every thought of holiness is Thine alone. Since it is of Thy mercy that another day is added to our span of life, we would dedicate anew to Thee, at this national altar of devotion, the unstinted service of all that we have and are. Make our patriotism pure and undefiled. May we know no glory but the good of the Republic and the welfare of all mankind. In the baffling problems of human relationships which face Thy servants in this forum of debate and decision, we beseech Thee, teach them

Thy patience and sustain in them the faith and hope that send a shining ray far down the future's broadening way. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1954

OUR GRACIOUS FATHER, as this Chamber is hushed to silence, may we find Thee moving upon our minds, higher than our highest thought, yet nearer to us than hands or feet. Before the toil of a new day opens before us, we would lay before Thee the meditations of our hearts. May they be acceptable in Thy sight. Bring all our desires and powers, we beseech Thee, into conformity to Thy will. As we pray for Thy kingdom's coming to our own hearts and to the whole wide world, awake in us a holy awe of this law-abiding universe which is our home and which so inexorably moves from cause to consequence. Bend our pride to Thy control. Prepare us for the role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues that concern not only our own dear land but all the continents and the islands of the sea. May our loins be girt and our lamps burning as those who watch for their Lord's coming. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1954

O THOU GUIDE OF OUR PILGRIM WAY, through the shadows of another night refreshing sleep has brought new vigor to our fragile flesh. As now reverently we bow at this shrine of the spirit, wilt Thou restore our souls. Solemnly conscious that we cannot hope to give to a needy world that which we do not have, we pray that we may be strengthened by Thy might in the inner man. Purge us, we beseech Thee, from all insincerity; cleanse us from the impurity that blinds our eyes to the high and holy. Break down in each of us the idols of our false pride, and shatter the sophistries of our self-love. And now, for the waiting tasks and perplexing questions of this new week, consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and steady us with the assurance that as we follow obediently and patiently the kindly light, the humblest work will shine and the roughest places be made plain. In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1954

DEAR LORD AND MASTER OF MANKIND, wilt Thou forgive our feverish ways, our petulent impatience, our lack of perspective. As now, closing our ears to the strife of tongues, we pause in the silence of this dedicated moment, may we listen, not to what the hour with all its din and clamor is saying, but to the more potent voice of the long years.

We bow humbly, mindful of our woeful insufficiency in this hour of the world's poignant need. In a shaken world may we feel firmly beneath our feet the things that cannot be shaken. May that solid rock of spiritual verities give us a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe; for Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the victory forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1954

O FATHER OF MANKIND, to whom all souls are dear and whose tender mercies are over all Thy works: We bow in the stillness of this historic Chamber with the solemn realization that every thought of every heart is fully known to Thee. Cleanse Thou our hearts from all that is petty and unworthy of our best. Through our thoughts, our words, and our actions may there ever shine the spirit of courtesy and kindness, even in differences of judgment and viewpoint, as Thy servants here wrestle with problems that affect the weal or woe of the Nation and the world. In times so fraught with peril and shadowed with the designs of evil men who blaspheme humanity's holy of holies, by Thy sustaining grace may we face the struggle bravely in Thy name, confident that no matter how long the day or how deeply entrenched the wrong no weapon that can be formed can finally thwart Thy holy will. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1954

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, to Thee we lift our hearts in supplication, bringing nothing but our need and the adoration of our contrite spirits. From Thy hands we have received the gift of life, the benedictions of home and friendship, and the sacrament

of beauty. In the fullness of Thy mercy Thou hast given us work to do and the daily strength wherewith to do it.

Make our consecration, we pray Thee, a channel for the healing stream of Thy grace, so that having been sustained by Thy patience we may be patient, having freely received Thy bounty we may be bountiful, and having been blest with Thy love without measure, we may obey Thy behest, in an earth which is now one neighborhood, regardless of border or breed or birth, to love our neighbor as ourself. We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose loving kindness and tender mercies fail never, and whose fatherly compassion reaches unto the ends of the earth: We come with bowed and reverent hearts at this new dawn of opportunity asking that our attitudes toward each other and toward all men may become the ministers of purity and goodness, of brotherhood and peace.

We thank Thee for this wayside shrine, apart from the clamor of the world, into whose holy precincts no controversy penetrates and where no unworthy rivalries can live within its gates of peace. As we become strangely aware, with all other voices hushed, that together we share our sense of the unseen and eternal, may we be filled with the spirit that makes for unity of purpose amid all the diversities of our thought.

And now, as the week's problems wait with their demanding insistency, we pray that Thou wilt restrain in us every impetuous temper, all ungenerous judgments, all presumptuous claims, all promptings of self-assertion. Grant us the will to contribute our own spirit and influence to remove misunderstanding and suspicion, as we toil and pray for Thy kingdom's coming among all men. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, in this quiet moment as we hallow Thy name and crave a sense of Thy presence, deliver us, we pray Thee, from all coldness of heart and grant us the grace of

true supplication as we draw nigh unto Thee. In this uncertain, troubled day which may determine the fate of Thy children for centuries to be, Thou hast called us to battle in the contest between light and darkness, truth and error. Help us to fight the good fight with all our might, to toil valiantly while for us it is called day, in the glorious freedom which belongeth to the sons of God.

With a conscience void of offense may we be given strength equal to the burdens of the day, wisdom sufficient for each problem of the hour, and grant that what we say and do here may be approved not only by our fellow men, but of Thee, O God, our strength, our guide, and the Father of our spirits. Through the struggles of these times lead us to the universal peace for which we work and pray, while we keep step to music not of this earth, as our hearts sing of a victory not ours, but Thine, "Glory, glory, hallelujah, Thy truth is marching on!" Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, whose paths are mercy and truth, who knowest our downsitting and our uprising, and who understandest the thoughts of our hearts afar off: We pause in the busy rush of the day to ask that the deliberations of these hours may reflect the guidance of Thy spirit. As work and worry and hopes deferred take their constant toll of our human strength, grant us as laborers together with Thee a sense of untapped spiritual resources and restore our souls with the joyous strength of Thy salvation. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked or perverse way in us; for we would come to this high and holy hill with pure hearts and clean hands. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, at whose word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until evening, we come to these spiritual springs of restoration asking that we may be given strength to match the tasks we face. O Thou who didst guide our fathers in the founding of this Republic, and dost in this Chamber surround us with a cloud of witnesses, watching from heroic yesterdays, still by Thy pillar of

cloud and of fire lead us on through disturbed days that test the souls of all men. When our most precious beliefs about man's dignity and destiny are denied and blasphemed by those who would lead the race to enslavement, cleanse, we beseech Thee, our own hearts and the practices of our own democracy so that we may be worthy to be the instrument of Thy purpose for the protection of the weak and the exploited. Undergird us with Thy might to exercise the potent ministry to all the world to which, in Thy providence, we believe Thou hast called us in this age on ages telling. We ask it in that Name which is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, beset by the perplexities of these calamitous days, with all their fury and terror, let not our strength fail nor the vision fade. As in the heat and burden of this epochal day we are called to serve the Nation and the world, lead us for Thy name's sake to the abiding springs of fresh hope and confidence for a better tomorrow, a new faith in Thy goodness and in the unrealized possibilities of Thy erring children, in spite of the stupid folly by which they have devastated the good earth which Thou hast given. May our own lives, freed of pettiness and prejudice and radiant with the good will which leaps all barriers, be open channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, at whose word light shineth out of darkness and who with a new dawn in a world drenched with beauty hast awakened us again to toil and praise and friendship, grant us now, we beseech Thee, a sustaining realization that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. So teach us to number these days, so crucial for our own Nation and the whole world, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

As Thou hast called Thy servants, who here minister at the altar of public affairs, to serve humanity in a stern day of judgment, when men's hearts fail for fear and for looking at the things that are coming on the earth, save them from pessimism and cynicism. Gird

them with fortitude. Illumine them with the light of Thy truth, and make them more than conquerors in the faith that the kingdoms of this world are to become the one and radiant kingdom of Thy redeeming love. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, for the varied tapestry of beauty which the changing seasons unfold, for the glories of day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, we lift our grateful hearts to Thee. As all that we see and feel on the earth and in all the spinning spheres of Thy creation exists only as it obeys Thy mandates, so may our wills be bent to Thy control, for only in Thy will is our peace. May our deepest concern be not to claim that Thou art on our side, but that we are on Thy side and moving in the direction of Thy kingdom's majestic purpose for all mankind.

Deliver us this day, we pray, from irreverence in the presence of the holy, from any betrayal of Thy truth as it is revealed to us, from all motives that poison our integrity, from all postures which are unreal and insincere. In the voicing of our convictions save us from harboring malice or resentment, and let not the sun go down upon our wrath. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, who, in the toils and troubles of time, hath set vistas of eternity in our hearts: In a world that lieth in darkness, swept by the chill winds of despair and doubt, we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within is not dimmed. We would lift our soiled and shadowed faces to the one true Light, knowing that if we keep our hearts with Thee there is no darkness from without which can quench the light that is within.

In this desperate hour, when the world's hope of a brighter tomorrow is committed to our frail hands, join us to the valiant company of unconquered spirits who in evil times have stood their ground, preserving the heritage of man's best, and whose flaming faith has made their lives as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom. We ask it in the ever-blessed Name of that One who is the Light of the world. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, in this still moment give us the grace of hospitality to the highest. As citizens of a world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation.

We come gratefully conscious of the priceless privilege of carrying everything that concerns ourselves or our Nation to Thee in prayer. Our hearts rejoice at the upsurge of faith witnessed in an inspiring hour as the chief leaders of our Republic, in its executive, judicial, and legislative branches, hallowed this very week by together acknowledging Thy sovereignty, calling on Thee to save in these perilous times, taking cognizance of the exhaustless divine resources available, and being strengthened with might by the confidence that the spiritual forces with us are greater than those a godless materialism can ever assemble. In Thy name send us forth with serenity to meet an agitated world with an inner certainty that the gates of hell cannot prevail. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1954

ETERNAL FATHER, Thou only art the fountain of our being, the light of all our seeing; our helper Thou amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. Our puny mortal strength is unequal to the tests and tasks of these terrific times which are upon us; the arm of flesh fails us, we dare not trust our own devices and counsels. At this altar of Thy grace may our hearts be steadied and stilled, purged of self, emptied of strain and stress, filled with peace and poise, satisfied with each new morning just to wake and find Thee there: For Thine is the kingdom to which the future belongs, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1954

O THOU WHO ART FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, in the brief day committed to us may our hands, clean and undefiled, be Thy instruments to help weave the finer fabric of the Nation's life. The generations come and go, returning to dust; but Thy laws abide, and above and around us Thy love is not moved.

We are grateful for the fundamental fact of the universe, which in myriad ways showeth Thy handiwork, that while all is law all is love. Amid all the chance and change of our ebbing days we have been attended by an ever-present help wiser than our own; our hurts have been healed and our burdens made light by a strength kinder than we know.

O Thou who art nearer than breathing, live within us yet more vividly, that the dross of our natures may be consumed by the fire of Thy blessed indwelling. May new days bring new visions of truth, new surprises of Thy love, and an ampler service to our fellow men. May our homes be more hallowed, our work more sacramental, and our faith more firmly fixed in Thee, that life may unveil to us its worth and wonder. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1954

O GOD, whose word is hidden in the framework of the world, shines in the mind of man, and is made flesh in that holy One who unveils Thy heart: We can know Thee only in part, but we know what goodness is, and we believe that Thou art good; we know what justice is, and we believe that Thou art just; we know what love is, and we believe that Thou art love. Thou hast made all things dependent upon Thee for their existence and Thou hast made our hearts so that they are restless until they rest in Thee. Yet we confess that we have so often not made it our chief concern to establish a life of communion with Thee; we have been slack in prayer and careless in living; we have not hungered and thirsted after righteousness. Yet Thou art the love that will not let us go. Help us to yield our flickering torch to Thee, to give Thee back the life we owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD: Conscious of the faults and failures which mar and stain the past, we are grateful that each new week brings us to the land of beginning again. May we receive new weeks and new days as Thy gifts, bringing new vigor, new hope, new opportunities to be strong and kind, patient and understanding, faithful and true.

As we here seek a solution for the Nation's baffling problems may we not be found unwilling to pay the price of better things. Teach us the vanity and futility of a quest for salvation which leaves ourselves unchanged.

Direct our steps, guard us from error, deliver us from all evil. Help us to sit where others sit, seeing life's tangled skein through the eyes of those less fortunate than ourselves. So make us faithful ministers of this fear-haunted and stricken generation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE LIGHT THAT NEVER FAILS and the love that follows all the way, we bow at this wayside shrine of Thy grace confessing the sins that have stained our record; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. We have fallen short of Thy expectations of us. We are shamed not only by the things we have done, but also by the things we have not done. We come praying for Thy cleansing and forgiveness and with an inner hatred for all that hinders Thy fullness from dwelling in us.

Trusting in the everlasting mercy, at the beginning of another day of service to our country and to Thee, our Father God, we would silence our thoughts, that, with all earth's strident voices hushed, we may feel Thee near. Even as we pause in reverence for this moment of communion, purge our shortcomings, we beseech Thee, in the flame of Thy love, that once more in the light of Thy countenance we may find peace. We ask it in the name of Him who is the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1954

LORD OF ALL BEING, whose glory flames from sun and star and who art the center and soul of every sphere: May we know this hallowed moment, pausing amid all the distractions and confusions which crowd the busy hours, that Thou art to each trusting heart how near; every virtue we possess and every victory won, and every thought of holiness enrich our parched and barren lives even as the sun's rays bring leaf and flower and fruit to the earth which is our home.

O make our hearts Thy dwelling place, and worthier Thee, Thou Spirit of purity and grace. Make us worthy of these days of world destiny in which Thou hast called us to serve the present age, days in which our common humanity faces powers of malignant evil seeking to debauch and enslave, Thy sons and daughters. Enable us to incarnate the faith we profess, that, linking our endeavors to Thy eternal purposes, we may be faithful ministers of the truth which makes men free. We ask it in the name of that One who is the life and the way and the truth. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1954

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the hunger of heart which brings us daily to this altar of prayer which unites our spirits in a common fellowship of yearning and aspiration. Our littleness needs Thy greatness, our weakness needs Thy strength. We have found that unless we live in Thee we fail to do our best and to reach our highest, and that unless our restless hearts find rest in Thee we lack poise and tranquillity.

Lead us past all shams and subterfuges to Thyself. Even as we bow in peace and quietness in this historic Chamber our minds are filled with concern for multitudes who live amid confusion and in anxiety about what the morrow may bring. Grant that this Nation, of which we are privileged to be a part, in hours that are heavy with crisis may maintain its strength of purpose to do justly and to love mercy. Make our hearts tender and our consciences sensitive, and stir our wills to action. We make our prayer in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1954

OUR FATHERS' GOD, author of liberty, we come with sacramental remembrance that on this new day in the cycle of the passing year even the calendar makes obeisance at the shrine of patriotism. We come this day to thank Thee for the shining virtues, the moral wisdom, and the elevated patriotism of Thy servant the first President of the Republic, who still stands among us in lofty reserve. In this city which is baptized in his revered name, where the monumental shaft lifts its glistening whiteness to the bending sky telling to the

generations following the supremacy of his unsullied character, we bow in this hallowed temple of the freedom he wrought to achieve, lifting our hearts in gratitude for the life and service of that one whom we reverently call the Father of His Country. With clamorous voices demanding our ears in this explosive day we would listen again to his calm and reassuring voice as, being dead, he yet speaketh with unerring judgment, exhorting us to union and harmony. Like him whom we this day praise and honor, may we be unswayed by passion or prejudice. May our patriotism be like his, who, being tested by the pedestals of ambition, turned from the temptation with indignation and abhorrence. So, as the ages roll on, may a grateful nation cherish the luster of his virtues and the greatness of his sacrificial devotion. We ask it in the name of the Master whom he adored and with the fervent prayer God Bless America. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1954

O FATHER OF MANKIND, to whom all souls are dear, while for this hallowed moment we bow and are silent, breathe on us, breath of God, fill us with life anew. We confess that unmindful of how fallible we are, forgetting that a humble and a contrite heart is the only sacrifice Thou dost require, too often pride of our own attitudes and opinions blinds us to the inadequacy of our judgments. We would put the direction of our lives into Thy hands, knowing that our wills are ours to make them Thine.

As in the hectic hours of these confused days, when the air is filled with bitter words, we turn to face waiting tasks and problems, bestow upon us the gifts of understanding, kindness, courtesy, and self-control. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1954

LORD OF ALL BEING, who holdest the world in the hollow of Thine hand: Give us now, we pray as we bow at the altar of Thy grace, the emancipating consciousness that the rampant confusions of today are seen by Thee in their true perspective. In this quiet moment give us to see that so often the things that disturb us most, agitate our spirits, and seem to loom so large, are like the grass which groweth up: In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up; in the

evening it is cut down, and withereth. Save us from mistaken magnitudes. Grant us a constant awareness of eternal principles whose majesty outweighs the temporal and the passing.

Bringing our cares to Thy fatherly understanding, even our concerns for the Nation in these storm-tossed days, may our hearts be kept in perfect peace as we stay our minds on Thee. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, who givest the day for work and the night for repose, grant to us a deep sense of Thy presence in the return of this morning hour when duty, that stern echo of Thy voice, calls Thy servants, these representatives of the public good, again to counsel for the Nation's weal. Despite earthborn clouds of misunderstanding and suspicion, keep us from the cynicism that corrodes and from the blight of disillusionment. In all our ways make us ever loyal to that high adventure which seeks the larger, nobler design for our struggling race to live together according to Thy will for the good of all. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, new every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove. As we bow in contrition and reverence at the beginning of another week whose tasks and problems await, we would bring our perplexities to the light of Thy wisdom. Thou knowest the temptations which lie in wait as we walk our pilgrim way, with its unknown, distant scenes. Always we feel the pull of selfish and unclean motives and enticements which endeavor to sully the record for which some day we must give an account. Shine Thou into our souls with the white light of Thy splendor, before which every vileness must shrink away.

This day, as we act and speak for the Nation, may the thoughts of our hearts and the words of our lips and the decisions of our minds be acceptable in Thy sight, O God of our salvation. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1954

O GOD, whose mercy is as great as our unworthiness, forgive our feverish ways and the impatience of our attitudes as, like restless pools, so often our spirits mirror the agitation of our disturbed day. In the midst of demands which drain our strength, save us from forgetting the courtesy which shines with respect and understanding for the opinions of others. However much we may differ in viewpoint, may we never lose faith in each other's sincerity and high mindedness of purpose. Scorning all that is petty and mean, may these testing days find us growing in true greatness, the nobility of goodness.

Under the shadow of the white dome, symbol of America's destiny, we come today shocked at the murderous violence of disordered minds who imagine a false and a vain thing. We lift our prayers for those smitten at their posts of duty, especially for the legislator whose wounds are so grievous. Upon his dear ones in these hours of deep anxiety we ask Thy sustaining grace. May the dedicated skill of surgeons and the tender ministries of nurses bring him, if it be Thy will, safely through the valley of the shadow to useful years yet to be. In life and in death, unto Thee we commit our spirits: In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1954

DEAR LORD AND MASTER OF MANKIND: Turning away from distracting contentions which hedge our daily way, and from all which is of the earth earthy, we would for this moment of vision look up to the sky above and see plainly Thy pillar of cloud and of fire ever leading us on. In the midst of the timely we would begin the day with a consciousness of the timeless. We would hush all other voices now but the one voice in the silence reminding us that the eternal God is our refuge and that underneath are the everlasting arms.

Make us vividly aware of how inconsequential our individual lives are, except as they become channels for Thy purpose and Thy will. To this end, empty our spirits of all ill will that corrodes and corrupts. Make us rich in the treasures of faith and love that thieves cannot steal nor rust decay. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1954

ETERNAL FATHER, whose glory is in all the world and whose grace is the breath of our very lives: We thank Thee for this day freighted with promise and wealthy with opportunity if we but seize it. Save us from missing its nobler calls by our prepossession with lesser and meaner concerns, so that when evening tints the sky "It might have been" will not be our sad lament. Give us the purpose and the patience to fill sunny hours with labor knowing that, after our brief and fitful day, the night cometh, when our work is done. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1954

O THOU TO WHOSE ALL-SEEING GAZE the darkness and the light are both alike, in all our need we turn unfilled to Thee who hath promised that even in what to us is a shadowed valley Thy rod and Thy staff will still comfort and sustain. Whatever the days may bring, may we work without haste, without stress and strain, in the joy of Thy strength garnering the lessons of the past, alert to the challenge of the present and joyfully confident that the future is in Thy hands, when, to a redeemed earth, cleansed of its iniquity, there shall rise in splendor the city of our God.

Give us this day, O Father, the courage to stand up and speak out fearlessly and honestly in defense of the truth, as Thou dost give us to see it. To our fallible judgments may there come a wisdom not our own, as we give the best that is in us to master the difficulties that confront us in these overburdened days. We ask it in the name of that Holy One who in the briefest time accomplished the most majestic ministry for all the sons of men. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1954

O GOD OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, whose compassion encompasses all Thy children and whose mercy faileth never: Thou hast called us to be partners with Thee in Thy redeeming purposes for this earth which is our home. We are humbly conscious that the only greatness we can ever know is to be linked with Thy transforming might.

Help us to make it our ruling passion in these days of daring challenge that we fail not man nor Thee. As before our eyes nature's

darkness and deadness gives way to lengthening daylight, the pulsing of springtide and the flowered robe of verdure, may our hearts respond as, filled with life anew and with hope aflame, we hear the voice of one at whose touch the barren wilderness blossoms as the rose and who declares: "I am the resurrection and the life." We ask it in the ever-blessed name of Him whose right it is to reign and of whom the prophets declared, "The government shall be upon His shoulders." Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1954

O GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, in whose love and wisdom lies all our hope: In the midst of the distractions of a mad and sad world we turn for this hallowed moment to be still and know that Thou art God. Immersed in this world of facts and figures, facing demanding duties, we pause to acknowledge that we cannot live by bread alone, nor in the flesh alone; that our spirits must have an escape into that higher realm measured not by clocks nor calendars, that kingdom within whose radiant realities are its faith, its ideals, its visions of beauty and of truth, its aspirations that lay hold of God and goodness. Drinking deeply at these hidden springs, may we be strengthened with might and our jaded souls refreshed as Thou dost lead us into green pastures and beside still waters. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for altars of prayer where, in high moments of faith, moods of doubt which often assail us seem treason to that changeless world where Thou dost reign in the uninvaded realm of the excellent and the true. Finding here the gifts of pardon and peace, may the memory of Thy past mercies mingle like sweet incense with a strengthening assurance of Thy present nearness which no malignity nor cruel violence of man's devising can snatch from those whose minds are stayed on Thee.

Make this storied Chamber of our national life a place of vision, a lighthouse of hope above the raging floods of human disaster and distress. Make us the architects of a new order for peace and justice for men in all the earth. Send us forth to waiting tasks grateful for

a precious heritage worth living and dying for and with a deathless cause that no weapon that has been formed can defeat. In Thy might lift up our hearts and make us strong. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, again at the beginning of another week's deliberations in this forum of a people's hope, we crave a sense of Thy direction and Thy benediction as we pause in contrition at this mercy seat of prayer our fathers built. So many things our finite minds cannot fathom, yet one piercing thing about Thee searches our very being, that it is only the pure in heart who really see God. Take Thou the blindness of our souls away. We would so lift our hearts and our minds into the light of Thy presence that as we go hence no deceit may mislead us and no temptation corrupt us. In every age men have heard Thy voice, and we can hear it still. Beneath the hum of the world's vast work and beyond all the clamor of man it soundeth, and we catch the accents of the Divine. In this moment we would hush all the divisive voices which daily assail our senses, and realize now in the quietness our unity in Thee.

For these thy servants of the public welfare we ask special gifts of wisdom and understanding, patience and strength, that, upholding what is right and following what is true, their words and deeds and decisions may hasten the coming of Thy kingdom: And Thine shall be the power and the glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1954

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the unquenchable impulse toward Thee that Thou hast implanted within us. Open our eyes to see Thee, not just out on the rim of the universe, where we may discern the hem of Thy garment in some distant star, but in human love which touches and hallows our own lives and which, at best, bears witness to Thee and alone can heal the hurt of the world. We would follow the Lord of these Lenten days, in whose steadfast face we read that the secret of life's fulfillment is found not in storing strength, but in pouring it out for others.

We are awed, and not exalted, by the solemn summons to our dear land in this day of destiny by her dedicated moral and material might

to prevent the polluting scourge of slavery from covering the earth. We believe that in Thy will America has come to the kingdom for such a time as this. We pray for fidelity not to shirk the issues of these momentous days. For this crusade in all the earth may we cause our democracy at home to shine with a new glory as without fear or favor we practice our conquering creed. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, fountain of all life, from whom cometh all serenity and certainty, flow into us as a deep and healing stream this day and let little things be submerged in great things and the fretful anxieties of time be seen in the quiet horizons of the eternal.

Open our eyes, we pray, to the futility of changing maps without changing men. Solemnize us with the consciousness that we cannot give to the world that which we ourselves do not possess. In these days, wherein the souls of men are sorely tried, when so much is demanded of those who would serve the present age, grant us the divine strength and grace that we may prove worthy of every trust the Nation commits to our hands, as on the anvil of vast issues there slowly takes shape the new and better world that is to be. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1954

O THOU SHEPHERD OF SOULS, who dost neither slumber nor sleep: We seek the completeness which is found only in Thee, because Thou hast first sought us. In the voice of conscience, in quiet hours when above earth's strident noises the still small voice speaks to our inmost self, in thoughts that will not stay on the ground, in deep needs that drive us to Thee, in the sacrament of human love, in the flowering beauty of springtide, in the spiritual heritage of our race, in seers and prophets and in Christ over all, Thou dost stand at the door and knock. May we open the door and, admitting the divine guest, ourselves be fit channels of that love which, at last, will break down every wall of partition and fulfill the desires of all nations. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, whose glory the heavens and the earth declare and whose garment vast and white we touch in all truth, all beauty, all goodness: We are grateful that Thou dost bend so close to our frail mortality that at the altar of prayer spirit with spirit may meet. Though our faces are shadowed by the tragedies of earth and by man's inhumanity to man, we lift them in faith to the light that no darkness can put out. Praying for grace to make us worthy of so momentous a time, our intercession rises for our Nation, its President, the Vice President, the Congress, and all who influence its policies, and for the whole body of the people, that the fearful sacrifices of this global struggle between light and darkness may find us ready to endure all hardness, that Thy truth which makes men free may be enthroned in all the earth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1954

O GOD, from whom all the holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: At another week's beginning, with pressing duties crowding about us we pause in the stillness to implore the strength outside ourselves, without which our labors are in vain. We come conscious that we can do little to help our sorely agitated day if its outer discord is matched by the inner confusion of our own lives. "Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm." We would remember, as we bow before Thee, that because we are Thy children we deny and betray our own heritage if we allow any fear to fetter us, save the fear of being faithless to our trust. May our lives be emptied of all which shames us in the light of Thy presence, so that, in this hour of the Nation's danger and desperate need, through us Thy will may be done. As we face the work of this and every day keep us near the world's great altar stairs of prayer that slope through darkness up to Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1954

O THOU GREAT COMPANION OF OUR SOULS, grant unto us, O Lord, the spirit of understanding, of discernment, and of fair dealing.

As those who here represent the people of the Nation give their minds and hearts to the needs of the Commonwealth, save them from prejudices, from half truths, and from all attitudes colored by the clamor of the few. May their actions and decisions be determined by the sense of divine destiny as our Republic now plays its part as the prepared instrument of Thy providence in all the earth. If in the discharge of public duty men speak well of us, may we not be puffed up; if they speak slightingly of us, may we not be cast down, remembering the words of the Master who bade us rejoice when men speak evil of us and to tremble when all men speak well, thus declaring to all that we care more for the approval of God and conscience than for the applause of men. We ask it in that Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1954

GOD OUR FATHER, we would make our hearts, cleansed by Thy forgiving grace, a temple of Thy presence knowing that only to the pure dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face. We come asking not that Thou would give heed to the faltering petitions our lips frame, for we may ask amiss, but that Thou wilt bend Thine ear to the crying of our deep need. Grant us the grace of hospitality to the highest. We bring to the altar of prayer our inmost selves, cluttered and confused, where good and evil, the petty and the great are so entwined. May the eternal immensities shame our little thoughts and ways. May the vision of what we might be convict us of what we are. In this great day of world crisis and destiny may we not miss the things belonging to our peace and to the peace of the world. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art the fountain of all grace, who knowest our necessities before we ask, our ignorance in asking, and our fallible judgments: Have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmities. Strengthen us in all noble impulses, and daily increase in us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the passion to find the truth and to be utterly fair in all our dealings and decisions. Dowered with privileges as no other Nation, give us a sym-

pathy with other people whose prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread," has never yet been answered. May our high pedestal of well-being prove to be Thy call to protect the weak and exploited, that through the potent ministry of our dear land all peoples of the earth may be blessed. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1954

ETERNAL SPIRIT, closer to us than hands or feet: In this quiet moment make our hearts and minds sensitive to Thy presence. Refresh our faith that the tensions of these days may not break our spirits. Gird us with the confidence that Thy truth is marching on, even in the perplexities of these anxious times.

We thank Thee for every word of truth which is being spoken throughout the wide world and for all the right which the human conscience has perceived and woven into the social fabric. In the fearful conflict now raging between truth and falsehood, remind us that beyond the appraisals of man there falls upon our lives the searching light of Thy judgment. Make us ministers of that love which will not halt its growing sway until our stricken humanity is healed and redeemed, as all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples are joined at last into one great fraternity under the banner of freedom and justice. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, breathe now Thy peace on hearts that pray—the peace that comes only when the jarring discords of our feverish fears are tuned to the music of Thy will. May we know no glory but the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world our utmost service, unsullied by base motives of self-interest, as again, at the golden gift of a new day, we pledge at this white altar of devotion the highest and best that is in us for the fulfillment of our holy calling as servants of the Republic. As workers together with Thee, teach our hearts and our hands to build on the wreck and ruin of these troubled days that city where Thou shalt dwell with man and where hunger and want and the bitter sorrow which is the harvest of hatred shall be no more. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND BEAUTY, we thank Thee for eyes to see and for hearts to thrill at every sacrament of loveliness, as again the good earth clothes itself in the blooming garb of spring. We come praying for Thy mercy and Thy cleansing pardon that a right spirit may be renewed within us and that we may yearn for spiritual integrity above all the tinsel of material things. Deliver us from the selfishness which shrinks the soul, from the hatred which eats like a canker, from the impurity which blinds eyes to Thee and the godlike, and from the unbelief which dims the splendor of the glory life may hold.

We pray Thy benediction upon these servants of the public weal as they ascend this hill of solemn responsibility. May they stand in this holy place of stewardship with clean hands and pure hearts, not lifting up their souls to vanity nor swearing deceitfully. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1954

O GOD, OUR FATHER, to the high altar of Thy mercy we come, each with his private need which only Thou knowest. In Thee alone we find the deep springs of the spirit at whose refreshing and healing waters we may be so strengthened with might that, maintaining our integrity and fidelity in an evil time, we shall go forth to be in the world, but not of it. The din of words assails our ears from an agitated world. Grant us an inner calm undisturbed by any outer commotion. Give us courage to seek the truth honestly, and reverently to follow the kindly light that leads us on. In Thy might may we move forward with a strong and dauntless faith, remembering that the only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today. Thou hast created us to be Thy temples. Grant that the holy places of our inner lives may harbor nothing unworthy of our high calling in Thee.

"The ruins of our soul repair
And make our heart a house of prayer."

In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted: The fierce storms sweeping across our world in this violent day have left us weary with watching and waiting for signs of a blue sky. These testing times have found out our every weakness. While the tempest still is high, in the midst of the global struggle between darkness and light, we turn to the infinite calm of Thy changeless love that we may find inner sustenance, wells of living water springing up, courage in battling for truth and serenity under strain. Give us a readiness for the austere disciplines of self-control, so that our minds and bodies may be the channels for kindling thoughts and soaring ideals and power to match great needs with great deeds. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, in the dedication of this quiet moment at the beginning of the day we would that all other voices be stilled, that Thine alone may be heard. In Thy light reveal to us the false glamour of things that so often deceive with their gaudy glitter. Save us from the supreme folly of living our days in spiritual poverty, oblivious to those deep streams of eternal help where the soul is refreshed and made sufficient for the evil of the day. As servants of the commonwealth may those who here serve the Nation and the world be diligent enough to seek the truth, honest enough to follow the gleam wherever it may lead, and brave enough to proclaim it and defend it, even though men may revile them and persecute them and say all manner of evil against them falsely. Make our bodies Thy temples and our hearts Thy altars, where the sacred flame is always burning. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, to whom a thousand years are as but one day, our brief stay on this earthly stage is as but a watch in the night; yet, while lasts its ebbing hours, make us bold and swift and brave to do Thy will. May we be strong to accomplish the things worth doing and put aside the things which are unworthy, belittling, or base, toiling with full purpose of heart while it is called day, knowing that the night cometh, when no man can work.

Again invading the precincts of this national forum of debate and decision, death, without warning, has struck a shining mark, and once more, as so many times in so short a period, there is a vacant place in the Senate of the Republic, as one* greatly honored by his State and serving in this body with distinction has so suddenly come to the end of his mortal career.

O Thou who art the compassionate Father, fond of those who seek Thee in loneliness and unutterable loss, and whose sustaining grace is sufficient for the sorrowing souls of Thy children, remember in tender mercy the dear ones of him who so recently stood in this Chamber with the consecrated powers of his strong manhood, so able and faithful, and who, serving the Nation he loved, has now fallen on sleep in the full strength of his days.

Vouchsafe to him, O Lord, life and rest, peace and joy, and larger service in the Paradise of God. As we stand now in stunned grief at the translation of a great public servant, reminding us that in the midst of life we are in death, may we, like him who has left us, do our work to the end in sincerity, tranquillity, and self-effacement. And at the last bring us all to the homeland of Thy eternal love. We ask it in the name of that Holy One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1954

O GOD, very great yet very near, in whom we live and move and have our being, we Thy children on this wandering island in sky, a speck amid the vast stretches of space, look up to Thee. As Thou hast put us into a great universe, help us to see behind it and in it a great God and lift up our minds to say, like our fathers before us: "Before the mountains were brought forth or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." Let not our own shuttered lives or the callousness caused by obsession with things make Thy presence unreal to us. Meet us in the secret places of our souls. Walk through the hidden rooms whence too often we have banished Thee.

Facing here the aching needs of the Nation and of a tortured world, may we scorn all that is low and abominable, selfish and vindictive and of mean report. And may there be lifted up whatever is excellent, beautiful, unselfish, and of high repute. Lift it up, we

*Senator Dwight Griswold, of Nebraska.

beseech Thee, and make it real that we may be truly Thy servants for this stricken generation. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE, who coverest the earth with a tapestry of beauty, who art the source of our being and the goal of our striving, hallowed be Thy name. In the midst of the high concerns of public service in this demanding and confusing day of global change, we are grateful for quiet cloisters of the spirit where, in moments of reverential calm, we regain our perspective as Thou dost restore our souls. With Thy benediction may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing, and clear thinking; with hatred of all hypocrisy, deceit, and sham, and in the sure knowledge that all great and noble service in this world is based on gentleness and patience and truth. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1954

GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD, in the afterglow of Easter with its triumphant paeans of victory, we come girding ourselves with its deathless message as we take up daily tasks again; feeling through all this earthly dress bright shoots of everlastingness. In our own risen lives, seeking those things which are above, enable us to challenge with the conquering truth of Easter all tyrants who, denying it, deal in war and death and chains and who suppress, exploit, and degrade the holy temple of human personality.

Steady our hearts and steel our wills to pay the price for its coming, knowing that there is no way to dawn except by dark, no way to light except by night, no way to Easter except by Calvary. In the crises of our times join us with those who, across the wastes and wilderness of human needs, throw up a highway for our God. Rising above the deafening contentions of our embittered days, may we be the hearers and doers of Thy word and of Thy will. We ask it in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the new day bathed in the glory of April sunlight; for the dawn orchestra of birds' songs; for

the fragrance and tint of the tiniest flower; for the mystic beauty of lights and shadows weaving patterns of splendor across the verdant fields and templed hills. Through it all, and in the laughter and tears of our fellow pilgrims, and in the whispers of our own souls, tune our hearts to hear Thy voice, for we know that no one of us liveth to himself. Deliver us from the folly of coming to Thee with empty words, burdened with no agony of desire or of determination. So gird the lives of Thy servants here, in the ministry of public affairs, that they may make decisions greatly, walk on the high levels of noble purposes, and, with kindling sympathies as wide as human need, in all things may quit themselves like men in these days that will mold the future. In the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in former times didst lead our fathers forth into this land to here establish a government of and for the people, grant Thy grace to us, their children, in these days of crisis, that we may prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and eager to be the instruments of Thy will.

With massed and sinister forces plotting the destruction of our Republic, save the inner life of our Nation from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. May personal differences and animosities be subordinated, as all true Americans strive to strengthen the solidarity of this, freedom's last, best hope, as it goes to battle with the principalities and powers of darkness in all the earth. For the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of all tyranny, for the opportunity still to be free souls, for the redemption of democracy from its failures, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace, we lift our hearts to Thee, O God of our salvation. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own devices and understanding we would lift the difficult decisions of the public service into Thy holy light. In these tumultuous days when the destinies of nations hang in the balance, the tensions of human relations like waters tossed

and troubled as the ship of state plows through mountainous seas, be Thou our chart and compass; while the tempest still is high, grant us, O Lord, as stewards of the world's future, a steadfast faith, a dauntless hope, a fervent charity, and a will to labor valiantly for the things for which we pray. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1954

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, in a dark and desperate hour amid all the toils and troubles of our times, we turn to Thee with deep needs that only Thou canst meet. Everywhere in a violent world we hear voices that challenge all that men have counted fixed and final and sure. In this day of crashing systems save us from being prophets of gloom and doom. As citizens of a world that carries on its bent shoulders a burden of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation. Give us grace in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good will determined to open the gates of a new life for all mankind. We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1954

O GOD, at whose word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening, keep within the grasp of Thy firm hand the threads of this day's words and deeds that we may not mar the fair designs of what Thou wouldst do for us and through us. For the beauty which fills the earth, for the love which hallows our homes, for the joy which springs from work well done, we thank Thee, the source of all gladness.

In this moment of devotion, as our spirits bow at this wayside shrine, may it be to us in very truth an altar of Thy grace. If in our frantic seeking for satisfactions and solutions we find all except Thee, the searching experiences of life teach us that we will then have nothing but vanity and spirits that remain still famished and athirst. Make us fit vessels to receive the glory and the good Thou desirest to give to us and through us to all the waste places of this stricken earth. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1954

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, judge of men and nations, who amidst the shifting sands of time standeth sure: Like men who turn from the dust of the desert to crystal streams, so we lift our soiled faces to Thee from the perplexities and the imperfections which crowd the common days. As we pause in reverent silence let this high place of a people's hope, so great a factor in tomorrow's pattern for all men, become the audience chamber of Thy presence. Because there is no solution of the world's ills save as it springs from individual hearts, we pray for ourselves. Give us a solemnizing sense of our fallibility. Cleanse Thou our hearts by Thy grace. Feed our minds with Thy truth. Guide our feet in the way of Thy will, and lead us in the paths of righteousness. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, in a disturbed and troubled time we turn to Thee with hearts that are heavy with anxiety, with minds that are clouded with perplexity, with spirits tempted to be discouraged by the world's catastrophe. As we seek Thy presence in this dedicated moment, steady us with the assurance that these clouds are lies and that the blue sky is the truth. We come solemnly conscious that even as we lift our hearts to Thee at this altar of the Republic, brave men surrounded by fanatical foes are dying for the right to be free.

We thank Thee that on this privileged continent neighbor nations, on whose borders are no guns or guards, join friendly hands in mutual respect and cooperation. In the strength of that unity send us forth against unnumbered foes who challenge it. May we put on the whole armor of faith and righteousness, pledging our loyalty to Thy kingdom of love and brotherhood, never letting our confidence in it nor our devotion to it fail because of the fury of the wicked when they boast themselves in the day of their pride. In this day of destiny for us and for the world may we be worthy of our vocation as keepers of the sacred flame. In the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, in all the confusions and perplexities of these troubled days, help us to keep inviolate in our souls a little shrine of quietness, a chapel of peace within, an altar of contrition, a sanctuary of sure and swift retreat, where the world's angry voices die, where Thou alone art real. May we fear only to be disloyal to the best we know, to betray those who love and trust us, and to disappoint Thy expectations concerning us. Make us forgiving and forbearing, gentle with others' failings, grateful for others' favors, remembering with each new day that the time for loving and serving is so short as swift to its close ebbs out life's little day. Teach us to value a conscience void of offense and the royalty or self-respect above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments earth can give. May the tyranny of majorities and the tirades of minorities be equally impotent to sway us from the right as Thou dost give us to see the right. By faith bring us, we beseech Thee, at last to the worldwide victory of justice and righteousness, as we keep step with Thy eternal purpose for mankind; as, in spite of all evil designs and devices, Thy truth goes on to its coronation. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1954

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, in whose love and wisdom lies all our hope, still our anxious, fretful hearts as we bring our weakness to Thy might, our failure to Thy perfection, our littleness to Thy greatness. From a sad and mad world with its inhuman horrors we turn for this hallowed moment to be still and know that Thou art God.

May a renewed loyalty to the precious things we hold nearest our hearts summon all true patriots to strengthen by their own example the solidarity of our dear Nation, freedom's last, best hope, as it faces the principalities and powers of darkness which plot the destruction of our Republic. O hear us when we cry to Thee to make us fit to set men free. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, to this ancient altar of contrition we come, at the beginning of another day of deliberation, seeking light upon our darkened way and strength and cleansing within our own hearts. For this moment of insight, turning from all the turmoil and chaos without, we would look within at our own lives, knowing that out of the heart are the issues of life. We cannot be builders of a clean and true and kind world if our inner lives are unclean, untrue, and unkind. While we strengthen the Nation with liberty's might to withstand sinister forces without, which betray and deny man's most cherished hopes, save the inner life of our land from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Bring to naught all forces that sow suspicion, mistrust, and fear, and which endeavor to undermine the confidence of our people in their government, in their schools, in their churches, and in each other. We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1954

OUR FATHERS' GOD, author of liberty: As in the white light of Thy searching we pause at the day's threshold for Thy appraisal of our hearts and minds, we confess with contrition that often selfishness and cynicism have poisoned our relationships with men and indifference has weakened our relationship with Thee. As servants of the Nation's life, save us from the dangers that lurk in a warped judgment, a confused reckoning, and a narrow outlook. Facing in these epic days determined foes who violate eevry cherished right which mankind has slowly won, and who would turn the longing eyes of man backward toward the jungle, we thank Thee that, more and more, the lurid glare of tyranny is revealing the spiritual glory of democracy as in Thy name it fights for its life and for the future of the race.

May the crimson threads of today's fearful sacrifices be woven into the very fabric of society, in a fairer pattern of opportunity and equality for all. We ask it in the Saviour's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1954

GOD OUR FATHER, unchanging amid the changing years: In this still moment before demanding concerns engulf us may a holy hush within our spirits whisper words of courage and fortitude. Upon us all is a somber mood, colored with a sense of bitter loss, as we come with tender remembrance of a revered and honored Member of this body who stood with his colleagues here as the work of last week began, but who now, at the commencement of this, walks with us no more.

We are grateful that Thy servant, Clyde R. Hoey, was an American indeed, in whom was no guile; and that, walking in high places, he kept the common touch. As we cherish the memory of his long career as a public servant we are conscious that in politics, as elsewhere, he practiced his religion. Now that he is gone from this Chamber we are the better because his gentleness made him great, and because he was a saint without being sanctimonious. Daily he wore a red bloom, and always he wore the white flower of a blameless life.

"'Tis hard to take the burden up
When such have laid it down;
They brightened all the joy of life,
They softened every frown;
They cannot be where God is not,
On any sea or shore,
Whate'er betides, Thy love abides,
Our God for evermore."

We lift our prayer in the name of the Lord he adored. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, in a world filled with sights that sadden and problems that perplex, may our hearts be strengthened by the realization that ours is also a time arched with the promise of a better tomorrow. May the crashing of outworn things that are falling to earth not hide from our eyes the glory of a new era struggling to birth. May we never falter in the confident faith that Thy truth is marching on, even in the perplexities of these terrific days.

We give thanks with humble yet kindling hearts that we are summoned to live and give in such a time. If this weary flesh of

ours, hemmed by foes, should fear or falter, keep us firm and steadfast as we put on the whole armor of faith and hope and love. May we be the instrument of healing our sorely wounded world and of breaking down all the barriers to human brotherhood. So may we play our part as Thy faithful servants in this day of destiny which may be history's crowning hour. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1954

GOD OVER ALL, blessed for evermore: Amid the seething strife which mars the earth and still sadly separates the sundered peoples of the world, this white altar of prayer, reared at the threshold of this forum of a people's hopes, speaks to us ever, whatever vexatious problems may be faced, of our final reliance on those supreme spiritual factors which alone abide and on which our salvation and the salvation of all men in the end depends. On the strong strings of these eternal verities trembles the music on the harp of life. O Divine Musician, in spite of all discords the strands of Thy hope have not snapped; Thy fingers still sweep over the chords of destiny. Only Thou canst make our days a melody of redemption and our lives a hymn of praise.

So tune our hearts this day to the infinite that all perplexed meanings may be linked into one perfect peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1954

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whom alone is the strength of our hearts, we come in this daily fellowship of prayer not so much to seek Thee as to open our faltering lives in penitence and need to Thy waiting strength. As we turn to the noisy hours of the driven day, be to us, we pray, a presence like summer roses pouring their fragrance through a garden and an assurance that underneath is a support like everlasting arms.

Give us sagacity, strength, spaciousness of mind, and a transparent purity of heart that, in a world stricken with hatred and pride and greed, we may see God and the Godlike as we walk humbly the ascending path of a faith that has a better air to breathe than cynicism and denial. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace,

who is the one true Light and to whose radiant kingdom of love there is no frontier. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1954

O LORD, MOST HIGH, before whose infinite majesty and greatness we bow in deep humility as we come acknowledging our littleness and our dependence, Thou art full of grace and truth. Thou hast promised to teach judgment to the meek and to whisper divine secrets to the pure in heart. Entering in through the lowly doors of our fallible petitions wilt Thou fill the house of our lives with music and even its chambers of discontent with peace.

We thank Thee for this world of beauty in the midst of which we walk, for the dawning light out of darkness, for all the gifts of love and of friendship, for sunny memories of remembered yesterdays, for the stirring challenges of these epic days, and for every hope that beckons on to radiant tomorrows. As we face all that this new week may bring to us, of tests and tasks, our hearts are singing:

> "This is my Father's world,
> O let me ne'er forget
> That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
> God is the ruler yet."

Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose breath is our life, who lightest our lamp and feedest the flame thereof: We would bend our rebellious wills to Thine. Bowing at this shrine of Thy grace we pray that Thou wilt so rule our hearts and minds by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit that no deceit may mislead us, no temptation corrupt us. Assist us mercifully to look upon Thee for guidance, that from Thy brooding love there may flow into our lives and work the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and sustaining strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness. Prosper Thou the work of our hands this day and grant that we may serve Thee, in our troubled generation, in the beauty of holiness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1954

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, whose providential care hath woven from innumerable strands the finer fabric of our Nation's life, accept our grateful thanks for the priceless heritage of the liberty which is ours to preserve and defend against sterner odds than any other generation has faced.

As we persevere along the tangled way may the pillar of cloud and of fire still lead us on, out of the bondage of the fear of men, into the perfect freedom which belongeth to the sons of God. Grant us a conscience void of offense, strength equal to the burdens of the day, and wisdom sufficient for these perplexing times. As servants of the people who look to this Chamber for attitudes and actions that shall bring order out of chaos, lead us to change discords into harmony, that, by the anointing of Thy grace, the people of this Nation may be given beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1954

GOD OF ALL HOPE, we bless Thee for the cleansing ministry of memory and for the rich heritage of noble deeds. Look upon us in mercy as our Nation, founded in Thy name, turns to its stirring past and to its warrior dead. In the flowering splendor of Maytime's garden, even as bugles are sounding to new tests and decisions for liberty's cause, prepare our hearts and minds for the sacramental journey to quiet cities of the dead, where, under their tents of green, sleep those whose lives were offered as freedom's shield. Save us from decorating tombs and at the same time desecrating the costly heritage which it takes graves to guarantee.

As this day the representatives of this dear land of liberty greet the brave and enlightened monarch of an ancient people across the seas, may our hearts thrill with the realization that all, under whatever sky, who acknowledge the dignity of humanity and who struggle toward the shining goals of more abundant life, are our kinsmen and comrades. Together may we yet build the new world for which good men have bravely died, wherein all nations may live together in trust and fellowship. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, unto the hills of Thy grace and glory we lift the expectant eyes of our faith, for from Thee, who art our refuge and strength, our help cometh. Thou hast cast our lot in testing days, when Thou are sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat. As we hush our thoughts to stillness we would school our spirits in sincerity and truth, as we wait before Thee who knowest the secrets of our hearts.

We pause at this wayside altar, not just to bow our spirits in a passing gesture of devotion and then go on our busy way with lives empty of Thee; rather, we come to ask Thy presence and Thy guidance as this day we face the stress of decisions, the strain of toil, the weight of burdens, and the call of duty. Despite the brutalities of man, keep love's banners floating o'er us as we march breast forward in the fight twixt the darkness and the light, keeping step in the ranks of those who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, amid all the angry tensions of these days, our ears bombarded by the loud confusion of tongues, we turn to the blessed stillness of this oasis of peace and prayer, that our jaded souls may be restored by the still waters of Thy grace, that we may be sure of the source of our strength, and that our perspective may be kept true. In the midst of all the contentions which fret our souls, we thank Thee for the loveliness of nature's springtide garments and that June may be had by the poorest comer. We thank Thee, too, for the sacred and tender ties which bind us to those dearer than life itself. We are grateful for friends who trust us and who inspire us to be our truest selves.

And now, as with the tinted tapestry of dawn another day has been given us, a new day at whose doors love and opportunity await, help us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Save us this day from the unkind word and the unkind silence. May we put into the fugitive fragments of every day such quality of work as shall make us unashamed when the day is over and all the days are done. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, may the hush of Thy presence in this hallowed moment move our spirits to praise and penitence, as all other voices are stilled that Thine may be heard. As we pause at the footstool of Thy grace our hearts are both bowed with awe and lifted up with hope. In a world where evil seems so rampant may our contribution to these troubled times be a life purged of self, of impurity and hatred, moved by compassion and concern for all mankind. Amid all the pollution may our own motives be a part of the cleansing salt of the earth. In the darkness may our spirits be as the candles of the Lord. May the great causes that will mold the future into the pattern of Thy desire and design, that will heal the world's hurts and rebuild the waste places, challenge the best that is in us, as we serve our brief day in such an age as this.

We beseech Thee so to direct, sanctify, and govern all that is said and done here that the decisions which emerge from the deliberations of this body may hasten Thy kingdom's coming. May there be nothing in our day's work of which, when evening comes, we shall have cause to be ashamed. We ask it in the name of that Holy One who is the way and the truth and the life. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose will doth sway the destiny of the universe and of human life upon this spinning island in the vastness of the heavens: We bow humbly before Thee, unto whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid, and before whose searching gaze nothing is covered or concealed. Out of the sham and show, the pride and pretense of man's constant endeavor to appear before his fellows for what he is not, we come asking that Thou wilt cleanse the very thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy holy name.

Kindle in each of us, we beseech Thee, the deep desire to live nobly, with equal reverence for ourselves and others, in the unconscious radiance of a life animated by compassion and by kindness. May our motives and deeds be under the utter domination of a

supreme passion for the welfare of our beloved Nation and for all the people of this stricken earth so wounded by man's inhumanity to man. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the gift of refreshing sleep and for the beckoning splendor of this new day, with all its verdant June loveliness. As we bow now, in the midst of draining duties and demands which make us cry out with a keen sense of our inadequacy, "Who is sufficient for these things?" steady our souls, we beseech Thee, with the realization of Thy sheltering care; and by Thy empowering quicken our energies into newness of life; make our fallible lives channels for Thy vast purposes which no refuge of lies can long impede. Grant us the uplifting vision of the high place of world leadership which Thou, through us, hath purposed for this Nation in this age on ages telling. Enlighten, we beseech Thee, this erring, groping world that injustice and oppression and all the deeds of darkness may at last be vanquished, and mankind live in the effulgence of the light of understanding love which casteth out fear. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE, who hast committed to us the swift and solemn trust of life: In dire times so fraught with peril and threat to the freedoms which are our most precious heritage, alert our hearts and minds, we beseech Thee, to the vast issues of these momentous days. No matter how long the duration of the struggle nor how deep entrenched the wrong may be, save us from dreaming or drifting. May we face the struggle bravely, in Thy name.

Grant unto Thy servants, to whom has been given the responsibility of administering the affairs of this Nation, that, being unafraid and contending for the right, they may ever stand for the maintenance of the spiritual integrity of America amidst the corruption and oppression that through the lust of power are ravaging this earth which might be so fair. Amid all the confusions of this explosive generation, may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, before ever our yearning needs have broken into speech we know that Thou hearest even the secret sigh of our fainting yet aspiring hearts. We bow before Thee with the consciousness that every heavenly virtue we possess, every moral victory we win, every thought of holiness which shames our uncleanness is Thine alone.

Send us forth, we pray Thee, to face the duties and tasks which press us on all sides, with a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words and a more healing touch for all the smart of this wounded world. Give truth to our words, sincerity to our hearts and courage to our deeds, in these times which are testing as by fire the treasure of freedom bequeathed to us. So may we in our day make patriotism beautiful with loyalty and dedication. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1954

ETERNAL SPIRIT, who hast set eternity in our souls, Thou art the law within our minds, the life of every breath we draw, the love that never forgets, and the life that never ends.

At the beginning of another week, as we come to this daily altar of Thy grace, it is ours again to deeply mourn the passing from this sphere of action of an honored Member* of this body. We are vividly conscious that across the busy months of this session grim death has been no infrequent visitor to this Chamber where the few deliberate for the many. Our hearts are comforted by the assurance that when to us, from our little, finite point of view, there is naught but the encircling gloom, the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee, and Thou seest what is in the darkness. Our mortal bodies are harps of a thousand strings, and die if one is gone. Strange that a harp of a thousand strings should keep in tune so long. But we are grateful that discordant notes that mar the music here are subdued again into the perfect harmony of the deathless life when this mortal puts on immortality.

We are thinking gratefully today, in this place where he came to the acme of his service, for all the able and devoted contributions made by our departed colleague to his profession and to his State and to his country.

*Senator Lester C. Hunt, of Wyoming.

May the benedictions of Thy sustaining grace rest upon his stricken companion and the children who sit today in the bowed circle of grief. And, at last, bring us all to the homeland of Thy eternal love. We ask in the name of that One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1954

ETERNAL FATHER, we think Thee that in the midst of things that are sordid and low and disillusioning so much of wonder still frames each new day and that through the soul's east window of divine surprise there come flooding golden thoughts and impulses and revelations that are splendid and alluring. Knowing that as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he, help us to so apply our hearts unto wisdom that we shall constantly dwell on those things that are true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and of good report.

Make us true to the light as we see it revealed step by step, that, despite misunderstanding and suspicion which tend to raise walls between us and our fellows and which so often arm with hatred the nations of the earth, we may be among the peacemakers who proclaim the dawning sense of brotherhood, as our eyes discern the coming of the glory of the Lord. We ask it in the name of that One who is the Light of all the earth. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1954

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, in hours of confusion and commotion we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee, who art from everlasting to everlasting. We Thy creatures have but a little span on this mortal sphere, yet Thou hast set our lives upon an earth vastly changed and different from what our fathers knew: Seas and plains and towering mountains are but steppingstones to a neighbor's door though it be half a world away.

Especially we beseech Thy enabling grace upon those who, in this momentous hour, stand and speak for our dear land. In union with those of other lands who love freedom more than life, may there be laid the foundation of a new home for all humanity, a refuge from hate and strife for all nations, a linked and leagued world in which individual human lives shall be reverenced and in

which power shall be administered as a sacred trust dedicated to the common good. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1954

GOD OUR FATHER, as the quiet splendor of another day illumines our path, at noontide we have stepped aside from the crowded highway to this altar of prayer, set up by our fathers, where in all our ways we would acknowledge Thee at the beginning of this day's council together. Some of us have grown weary with the heat and burden of these tragic days. For Thy name's sake and for our soul's sake, lead us where still waters flow. Gird us with strength to make decisions now which shall not plague us in later years. Deliver us from any present expediency which will hold us back from playing our full part and mobilizing the might of freedom against those who, degrading the sanctities of human life, plot to enslave the world.

In this day of decision, may this dear land of ours, which Thou hast made the world's great bulwark of liberty, stand up and speak out, and boldly, in Thy name and in the name of our imperiled heritage of freedom, that generations to come may call us blessed. And, above all, save us from crying "peace, peace" when there is no righteous or just peace. We ask it in the Name of that One who, against falsehood, came not to bring peace but a sword. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, who hast brought us in safety to the beginning of another week, with grateful hearts we pause in Thy presence to invoke Thy blessing and guidance in all the tangled problems which press for solution, in the homeland and in our relationships to the whole world of which our Nation is so vital a part. Save us from the paralysis of fears which are unworthy of our heritage, for we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses out of heroic yesterdays. May we dread nothing but the loss of Thee and the compromising of principles the vindication of which is dearer to us than life itself. Whatever the risk or cost, save us in these crucial days from any specious doctrine of safety first. In all the deliberations in this sanctuary of a nation's weal, be near us to direct, within us to refresh,

around us to protect, above us to bless, and beneath us to uphold in Thine everlasting arms. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1954

O GOD, from whom all blessing flow: Draw very near unto us, we the concerns of these troubled days into the perspectives of the long years. The cries of the crowd about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within. Weary of fruitless quests and futile arguments we turn to Thee in the humility of prayer. As our words for this solemn, searching moment are hushed to silence, breathe upon our thinking with Thy truth, breathe upon our understanding with Thy light, breathe upon our attitudes with Thy love. May the pressures of the world not mold us, but may we be so strengthened that we may help mold the world nearer to the fashion of Thy righteous will. Maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been given and from whom much will be required in defending and preserving the precious things that matter most. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1954

O GOD, from whom all blessings flow: Draw very near unto us, we beseech Thee, in this moment of supplication. As we stretch lame hands of prayer to Thee, grant us the benediction of Thy peace. Look with Thy healing mercy upon this fear-haunted world, where so many flowers of hope have faded, so many lamps of faith are flickering low, where so much joy has turned to dust. As we look away from our paltry and passing concerns to the vast arch of Thy spangled heavens, may we know that no momentary eclipse can hide for long the sun of Thy righteous love from whose infinite effulgence there is poured upon us the light that is our life. Even as pilgrims of the night may we follow faithfully the star of truth and justice to a future for all humanity glorified by the light which alone comes from Thee. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knowest our frame and rememberest that we are dust, grant us now a sense of our immortal destiny which transcends the small and partial world we know in this earthly sphere. From the perplexing problems whose attempted solutions often tend to divide us in our judgments, we turn to this altar of Thy unchanging grace where spirit with spirit can meet and where we find a unity which ties us together even amidst all the diversities of our thought. Beset by the confusion of these days, when honest and sincere men differ, may we never forfeit our own self respect nor the confidence of those who trust us, as we dedicate our highest and best to the service of the Nation. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1954

O GOD, whose spirit searcheth all things and whose love seekest us even through pain and loss, incline our hearts to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. In the living present Thou dost speak through the deeds and lips of those whose lives are moved with compassion at the want and woe of their fellows.

Again we come with heavy hearts as our Nation mourns the loss of a servant* of Thine and of the Republic, who, across devoted years in this temple of democracy, with fidelity and understanding, served his fellow man in a tempestuous time. Such as he, lifted above the crowd in private living and public thinking as they faithfully serve their day and generation and then fall on sleep, speak to us in their life and in their death, reminding us that honesty, kindness, and selfless toil are the steps to true distinction.

We are mindful on this day of our mourning for the loss of a loved colleague that not only in the halls of legislation did he serve, but that in business relationships he practiced his religion; that he freely gave his time and energy to great organizations which strive to bind men together in enduring brotherhood; that he dedicated his counsel to educational and church leadership, and extended the hand of active assistance to those who with Christlike compassion lift up

*Senator Hugh Butler, of Nebraska.

the underprivileged and the fallen. Leaving an enduring record of public devotion and the benediction of a noble character, now that for him the busy world is hushed, vouchsafe to him, O Lord, light and peace and joy in the life everlasting. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1954

O THOU GOD OF OUR FATHERS, to the high altar of Thy everlasting mercy we come each with his private need which only Thou knowest. We return to the hard and stern facts of the present bitterly divided world, after our hearts have been strangely moved by the inspiring spectacle of our dear land of the free reveling in the celebration of its dearly bought liberties, and resolving with new vows registered in heaven to defend and preserve our heritage against all foes. As the sacred memories of dark and doubtful days, when was launched this noble experiment dedicated to the freely expressed will of all the people, again stir the Republic on the birthday of the state, may we the spiritual heirs of the founders follow in their train, in these most perilous days since the clanging bell rang out its great glad tidings proclaiming liberty to all the land. We ask it in the name of that One whose truth makes men free. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1954

O LORD, who art our light and our salvation, in whom we live and move and have our being: We would escape from the tyranny of things which so fill the horizons of each new day, as we open our hearts to Thee for this hallowed moment. We confess the failures of our vaunted goodness, the secular pressures that cause us to fall away from high standards. By Thy grace develop in us the moral stamina that we may not supinely melt into our surroundings. Make us more worthy of the gifts of heart and mind and spirit that have fashioned the fabric of this Republic. May we selflessly give our highest and best to add to America's spiritual and moral treasures in these testing days, with our grateful eyes ever upon the skill, the strength, and the devotion of all those who have gladly sacrificed that this Nation might endure as a land of hope and glory. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, whose love passeth our understanding and whose mercy is wider than the sea, we turn to Thee realizing that Thy purpose for us is vaster than any possible prayer we may lift to Thee. We thank Thee for all the disciplines which have been shaping our lives across these pilgrim years—for the mingled loss and pain, the defeats and triumphs, the shadows and sunshine, which have combined to teach us that all is dross and vanity save faith and hope and love and the divine discontent which lures us on to beckoning ethical heights.

In all the plans here made for the governance of the Nation in these times that are trying our souls, may Thy wisdom prevail at last over all our fallible judgments; where there is anything corrupt, purify it; where there is error, correct it; where there is right, establish it; where there is division, unite it. And as Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs wrestle with thorny problems that are pressing for solution, keep their hearts, we pray Thee, from all envy, hatred, and malice, so that in their thoughts and words and actions they may constantly reveal to each other only the spirit of courtesy and understanding kindness. We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 9,1954

O GOD, who art the foundation of the true and good, the secret and source of all grace and strength: We thank Thee for beauty found in unexpected places, blossoms of joy that grow in dusty ways, flowers of hope that spring in the desert, and for high moments of prayer that reveal to us even fleeting glimpses of the splendors of eternity. By the good will that finds a home in our own hearts, fit us to be among those who in these disruptive days tear down barriers of suspicion and hostility and build bridges of friendliness. May we never forget that righteousness exalts a nation, and that only the pure in heart can see Thee and the Godlike in a world where common bushes burn with the eternal, but where only those who see take off their shoes.

We pray that Thou wilt give persuasive power to all statesmen, writers, and public leaders who hold before the people ideals of truth

and beauty. In these perilous days, when pagan blackness battles against the light, may we know in very truth that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. We ask it in the ever-blessed name of that One who is the light of the world. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1954

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whom we seek in vain without unless we first find Thee within: May the hush of Thy presence fall now upon our driven lives. In a time for greatness save us from small choices and from dwarfed perspectives. Deliver us from inner cowardice which makes us unwilling to pay the price of better things. We confess that too often we have desired the coming of Thy Kingdom, but not through us. We have sought for a new order that would leave our own lives still unchanged.

As we bow before Thee, reveal to us the false pride that inflates our petty knowledge, and grant us the humility that stoops to learn Thy ways. Give us a part in bringing in a world delivered from disorder and aggression, a humanity redeemed from the darkness which now threatens the gains of a thousand years. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1954

O MERCIFUL GOD, who alone can fill our life with holy purpose, at the beginning of this new day we beseech Thee that all its hours may be hallowed by tasks that are faced with a sence of Thy presence. From this altar of supplication we would go refreshed and empowered to dedicate our labor for that which is just and true. To serve the present age, we would give the best that is in us against the wrong that needs to be resisted and for the right that needs our assistance.

Teach us this day to enthrone wisdom upon our tongues and kindness within our hearts. And now, as problems having to do with the welfare of our Nation and of other nations fill to the brim the hours of this day, give us a joy in service that is independent of time or place and outward circumstances. So by Thy might shall we be garrisoned with fortitude and strengthened with courage: In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1954

O GOD, OUR FATHER, again through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we face a new day; but we would not face it alone. Only by a sense of Thy presence is duty lifted above drudgery. Daily Thou dost invite us to seek Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast so framed our hearts that our deeper instincts anchor us to Thee; that Thou hast so created everything that he who loves and follows the truth can never miss Thee at the last.

Grant to us to dream great dreams, and not to disobey the heavenly vision; and though the hope sometimes seems forlorn may we be found ready to lead it against unnumbered foes; without stumbling and without stain may we follow the gleam of our highest and best, until the day is ended and our work is done. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1954

O GOD, our life and our light, to this moment dedicated to the unseen and eternal, we turn from the deceitful world where truth so often eludes us along tangled paths. Here at this altar of faith we would seek the truth about ourselves, knowing that Thou canst not use us to change the crooked things that blight the earth unless our own hearts are homes of sincerity, integrity, and purity. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Because so much of our span of life is gone, and so little left, may we redeem the residue by intensity of living, toiling in this new day in the sense of the eternal. Prosper, we pray Thee, the councils of the nations' leaders whose decisions will shape the tomorrows. Bless all sincere efforts of those who speak for the nations, that there may be found a more excellent way than hatred and suspicion and exploitation, and when, in sharing all, Thy sundered children shall gain all; and Thine shall be the kindgdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1954

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Only when our vision is cleansed and corrected by far hori-

zons can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting. Without a sense of Thy presence in this world of change and decay, fear of failure and of the unknown future haunts our hearts. Only at the springs of Thy abiding reality we keep alive our faith in values that are permanent and in the kindly light behind all shadows.

Send us forth to the duties of this day with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world with an unruffled kindness that is strength and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1954

O THOU WHOSE THRONE IS TRUTH, frail creatures of dust serving out our brief day on the world's troubled stage, we would set our little lives in the midst of Thine eternity and feel Thy greatness and Thy peace: For—

> "We fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless,
> Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness."

We beseech Thee to keep strong everywhere all souls who strive to maintain the insights of human brotherhood. In this land of liberty may our own lives, freed of pettiness and prejudice and radiant with good will which leaps all barriers, be open channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, who hath taught us that in quiteness and confidence shall be our strength, standing at the threshold of another week of test and toil, by the might of Thy spirit lift us, we pray Thee, to Thy presence that we may be still and know that Thou art God.

We thank Thee for friendships that enrich our lives, for duties that challenge our powers, for rainbows of radiant hope which arch our skies. In paths beyond our human ken to discover, lead us to that concord which is the fruit of righteousness. Grant us reason and insight to apply our hearts unto wisdom and to bring every thought and effort into captivity to the high endeavor of peace on earth to men of good will. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1954

ETERNAL FATHER, once more we enter the stream of life with its rush and pressure of public affairs. We pray for the quickening awareness of Thy constant presence. May we face all the duties which the day may bring in the firm confidence that Thou art our sufficient shield and defense. With that assurance may we know that neither disappointment nor weariness, nor any temporary defeat, can separate us from Thy love.

Thou hast kindled a divine light on the altar of our souls. Always may we remember that we are guardians of that sacred flame. Guide us to find the burning bush that glows in the drab valley of daily duty. In all our dealings with distressed humanity, yearning for a more abundant life, keep us faithful to the spirit of the Master who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. We ask it in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1954

ETERNAL LIGHT, who hast folded back the curtain of darkness and caused the dawn of a new day to brighten the earth, we beseech Thee to gladden our hearts with Thy light. May our lives be flooded with the radiance of faith, that doubts may be dispelled like mists of the morning. Invade our hearts with new reverence and responsiveness, that even the silence of this hallowed moment may be Thy benediction at the day's beginning.

We turn from the busy concerns that engage our minds, from the trivial pleasures that fill the passing moments, from the pressing cares that burden our day. At this wayside altar of prayer subdue the clamor of our hearts, soften every alien note, and for the high mission which by the will of the people has been committed to Thy servants here, in the ministry of the Nation's life, may they hear Thy voice and learn Thy will. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, eternal love, Thou source of all life and light: We would yield our flickering torch to Thee. Beyond all the madness of these angry days, with nations in commotion, we turn to

Thee who sittest above the floods and in whose balances the nations are weighed.

Lift us out of our doubt and cynicism by a great faith to live by and great causes to live for. Facing now unfinished tasks calling for courage and sacrifice, vision, and wisdom we beseech that Thou wilt pour in double measure Thy enabling grace upon the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Congress, and all public servants who, sharing the heavy loads of these epochal days, shape our policy and guide our destiny.

We thank Thee for the steadfast faith of Thy servant, Syngman Rhee, who today comes crowned with honor to plead the cause of Thy truth against the devil's falsehood, not only as that truth faces the principalities of darkness in his own land, but also in all the reaches and ranges of this global struggle. Give us a part in making the earth's crooked ways straight, when social and industrial relations will lose their hard antagonisms and become the hallowed cooperation of comrades in human service: In the name of the Servant of all. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE, Thou hast taught us that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength. We turn to Thee for refuge from the noise and hurry of the world without and from the tyranny of selfish moods and motives within. May we fear only to be disloyal to the best we know, to betray those who love and trust us, and to disappoint Thy expectations concerning us.

Dedicate us, we beseech Thee, in this anguished generation as builders of bridges across all the dividing gulfs which mar and rend this embattled earth. Deliver us from petty irritations which dim the far look. Bring us to the ending of the day unashamed and with a conscience void of offense. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, together we bow in the hush of this morning hour. In the stillness wilt Thou whisper some word of guidance as here the Nation's leaders grapple with thorny questions of state. By the very

opulence of Thy gifts, Thou art saying to us that of those to whom much has been given much will be required.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore.
Let the search for Thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom,
Grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ALL, who art above all and through all and in all, without whom life has no spiritual source, no divine meaning or destiny, but with whom there is power for the present and hope for the future: We seek Thee as our fathers before us have sought Thee in former days, when the difficulties they faced were as frowning heights before their climbing feet; yet by faith they were led over the peaks to the pleasant valleys and still waters beyond. So lead us on, for Thou only art our guide and deliverer.

Strengthen us with Thy might that the strain of these days may not break our spirits and that no denials of human freedom now loose in the world may intimidate our souls. When the problems which front us seem insoluble, when the very principles for which brave men have died are betrayed, when the seamless robe of world unity is rent in twain, when even the shining river of our dreams seems to sink into the sands of futility, still may we labor on serene and confident knowing, while the weeping of hopes deferred may endure for a night, that the joy of Thy sure victory cometh in the morning. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1954

O GOD, HIGH AND HOLY, above all our thought: Like the morning dew on parched ground, like the misty quiet of a summer's dawning, steal upon us now with a sense of the eternal as we bring our fainting spirits to the holiness that shames our uncleanness, to the love that forgives our iniquities, to the truth that unveils all our falseness, to the patience that outlasts our fickleness. Even as our minds are

plagued with questions that haunt us, as to how humanity with the dread secret of nature in its fumbling hands can live on this planet in peace and security, steady our hearts with the knowledge that the fundamental facts of the universe are not material, but spiritual. Give us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious yet demanding day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy eternal purpose, which, in spite of puny foes, is marching on.

We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, Father of our spirits, in whose peace our restless, feverish hearts are quieted, from the flickering torches of our own understanding, we would lift the perplexing decisions of the public service and of the Nation's welfare into Thy holy light. Make us, in the purity and integrity of our inner lives, such men that Thou mayest speak to us and through us to this bewildered and groping generation.

In these anxious days, when the destinies of nations hang in the balance, when the tensions of human relationships are like waters tossed and troubled, great God of all the earth, lead us to know the worth of sympathy. May brotherhood increase. May all contentions cease, and nations dwell in peace and unity. In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1954

O THOU ALL-KNOWING AND ALL-LOVING GOD, who in such a time as this hast called Thy servants gathered here to the ministry of high service in public affairs: We come with tender thoughts concerning those who so often across fruitful years have answered to their names in this Chamber, but who now answer not, however we may call. This hour we see their faces and forms, as they* are kept in memory—one coming from the West, with all its pioneer daring, and one from the South, with all its hallowed traditions; both in this body serving well their States and their Nation, in perplexing times, before suddenly they disappeared through the portal of death to enter a larger room of service in the Father's many-mansioned house.

*Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada; Senator Burnet Maybank, of South Carolina.

And so at the beginning of this session, with the busy bustle of activity about us, we are reminded that swift to its close ebbs out life's little day.

Now we pray that in all the deliberations here begun Thou wilt save us from pride of opinion, from intolerance and prejudice, and from lightly ascending any throne of judgment. Make us humble disciples of Thy truth, be it in Thy book or on the tongue of man, or in the mystery of silence. Send us humility for our arrogance, wonder for our dullness, and inspiration to conquer the inertia of our spirits. Give us grace to shun everything that cannot bear the eternal light nor live in the eternal love. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1954

ETERNAL SPIRIT, whom we seek in vain without unless first we find Thee within: May the hush of Thy presence fall upon our spirits, quiet our minds of their fretfulness, allay the unhappy irritations and resentments which threaten the tranquility of this new day, hallow our lives with the grace of contrition and humility. Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace.

Increase the sensitive area of our sympathies that we may reach out with understanding to those whose perplexities we may not share. Chasten our judgments of others with the realization that what we know is so little, and that what we comprehend is less.

And now, from the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, of Thy goodness give us, with Thy love inspire us, by Thy spirit guide us, by Thy power protect us, and in Thy mercy receive us, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1954

O THOU GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD, on this day when the Nation bows in reverence and gratitude at the graves of its heroic defenders and salutes in honor the veterans who marched in the armies of freedom, we would rededicate all that we have and are to the unfinished task of making all men free.

We pray today for our Nation, girding its strength, material and spiritual, as it faces the principalities of darkness; and we implore Thy benediction upon all whom we ourselves have set in authority. As the Republic hallows the past, save us from unwittingly desecrating the present by fostering disorder, discord, and suspicion in the ranks of those who in this grim day, in the name of our America, front the most deadly and determined foes of all we hold dear. Deliver us from the supreme folly of turning from the common enemy which seeks to destroy us, as with arrows of ridicule or slander we wound or hurt comrades by our side, whose patriotism is unsullied. In this day of destiny may we be carried up into Thy great purposes and find in Thee, above all our human contentions, the goal of all our striving and the end of all desire: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1954

O GOD who, though all else fades, remainest the same, Thou who leavest us never, even when we leave Thee, and whose tender mercy is over all Thy works: We come at the beginning of yet another day praying for strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight for our times, and faith enough to remove mountains that loom frowningly before us.

We thank Thee for America, which still stands before the oppressed anywhere and everywhere as the symbol of the morning radiance of a joyous hope. For all afar off who sigh for liberty, for all lovers of the common people who strive to break their shackles, for all who dare to believe in democracy and the kingdom of God's love, make Thou our great commonwealth once more a flaming beacon light and a guide on the path which leads to the perfect union of law and liberty. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, once more at the beginning of a new week's challenge—

"We come unto our fathers' God,
Their rock is our salvation,
The eternal arms their dear abode,
We make our habitation."

Thou hast set us in a world of wonder and beauty. We beseech Thee to give us wisdom to uncover the springs of radiant delight. May we find joy in the loveliness of nature, in the strength of friendship, in the conquest of difficulty, and in the compensations of service.

In all our dealings with those who walk by our side and who are tempted, even as we, may we say to them and of them the generous things which would be upon our lips if they were here no more. Preserve us from false judgment. Help us to judge others as we would be judged, to serve as we would be served, to understand as we would be understood. When the shadows fall and evening comes, give us the supreme satisfaction that we have given our best to every task and that we have faced every duty without bitterness, with charity for all and malice toward none. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1954

O THOU FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS who hearest prayer, to whom all flesh shall come, breathe upon our agitated hearts, we beseech Thee, the bendiction of Thy holy calm. Lift the burdens of drab duties and change stern statutes into glad songs. Soothe the anxieties of our baffled spirits, so that with the shield of Thy peace and the sword of Thy truth we may face whatever tests this day may bring, free and fearless. Kindle on the altar of our hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world that shall consume in its white heat every grosser passion. And may our democracy, confessing its failures and purged of its failings, be more and more an inspiring and emancipating power for world security and stability amid the crucial conflict now raging in its mad fury around the world. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1954

O THOU GREAT FATHER OF US ALL, we thank Thee for the glorious revelation that the heart of the eternal is most wondrously kind and that we can come as little children, trustful and happy, to the God of love. All the tender beauty of our human love and the care for others which reaches out to their want and woe is the reflected radi-

ance of Thy loving kindness, even as moonlight but testifies to the blazing sun, which fashions it and throws its silvery mantle over the earth. Since Thou art our Father, may we not attempt to hide our sins from Thee, but to overcome them by the stern comfort of Thy healing presence. Knowing that we live in a universe where, while all is love, all is also law, reveal to us the larger goodness that speaks through the unbending order of the world.

And now, as we face the pressing concerns of this day, may no passing irritations rob us of our joy in one another. Forgive us for our keenness in seeing human failings and our slowness in being aware of the virtues of those who toil by our side. May there be no sharp words that wound and scar. And may no rift of opinion widen into estrangement. May there be nothing in this day's work of which we shall be ashamed when the sun has set, nor in the eventide of our own brief day when our task is done and we have finished the work Thou gavest us to do. We ask it all in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1954

O GOD, in whose strong hands are the threads of every life, again we turn unfilled to Thee. Back of all our thinking and striving we are conscious of something divine and eternal that haunts us and will not let us go—something at work behind our fallible minds; sometimes in the stillness we hear it like soft bells at evening pealing; sometimes in hours of mystic insight we feel it and, rising above the trifles which clutter our days, our hungry hearts cry out, "Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee." If that petition is but answered in our wayward lives and really, in spirit, we draw near to Thee, we know that always brings us nearer to our fellows.

In these stern, strange times in which our lot is cast, take us as we are, we pray Thee, with doubtings and longings, so often frustrated and thwarted; and even with what is imperfect and broken, through us make Thy purposes prevail for all mankind. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1954

O THOU SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH AND HOPE, humbly we come, trusting not in our feeble hold of Thee, but rather in Thy mighty grasp of us. Our minds are puzzled and confused—full of doubt and questioning; wickedness seems so rampant and triumphant, goodness so rare and spoiled by lurking evil.

Give us, we beeseech Thee, the faith which in the darkness still believes in the dawn. Out of dense darkness has leaped the light of this new day, touching into loveliness the fields, the hills, and the sea, filtering into the deepest woods—into the darkest homes. Come to us, Thou Light of the World. May we become sure of Thee as men who watch through a long night are confident of the dawning. Scatter our doubtings. Fill us with life anew. Send us forth as sons of the morning to bring Thy light to every shadowed area of human relationships. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1954

OUR FATHER GOD, Thou hast set us to serve the Nation and all mankind in crucial and decisive hours. With a new world emerging from the churning waters which engulf us, help us to be vividly conscious that Thou hast committed as a trust to our hands the great truths that make men free. May our individual lives be more and more the incarnation of the principles which we profess—Thy word made flesh in us for this tortured generation.

Toiling, in Thy world, to serve our fellows, may we lose all sense of dull drudgery and know the gladness of sons doing their Father's will. Grant us sweet reasonableness in all our dealings with our fellow men, and especially with each other in these Halls of state. Keep us from sitting in the seat of the scornful as we remember our own grievous faults and failings. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

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